

Government Organization

not referring to loans, but to financial assistance—goes to the big industry; everything is sacrificed to it. It is exempted from billions of dollars in tax for so-called investments, that are not always adequately made in the small industry. The latter is being taxed, and prevented from surviving.

Small industries are in jeopardy nowadays. Many of them go bankrupt. Why? Because they do not get enough assistance. I wish to draw more especially the minister's attention to this. I know he is aware of this problem but I believe he does not know about the difficulties the small industry in our area must face every day.

I am not saying that in order to launch a war, but merely to draw the attention of the minister, because it is awful to see our small and average industries collapse when they could be viable. Why? Because they did not get the necessary assistance from the government. We can see the proof of that every day. I am not against big industry, no, I am very happy that it should get benefits, but let us give the same benefits to the small industry. Do the hon. members know the estimated value of the Alcan plant in Arvida? That firm just reinvested \$14,400,000. I am very happy about that for the people in our area. That industry will get a fine gift of \$1,500,000 because they are investing there. Why should we not make similar gifts to the small industries who are investing also? But no. They even have trouble getting loans.

Here is an example. A small industry with a \$250,000 asset succeeded in getting a small loan from the Industrial Development Bank after having applied to all chartered banks. It needed a little money, since it had accumulated too much stock. The Industrial Development Bank lent him \$25,000—10 per cent of his capitalization—at 9 per cent interest. Is this the way to help a man?

• (5:00 p.m.)

I shall not name all those who would have needed loans in underdeveloped areas since they did not get anything. Our area was a designated one. Our most common industry is lumber. I could mention some industrialists who have tried to get loans similar to those granted to the big industries in underdeveloped areas, but they did not succeed. I could mention one who managed by himself and with the help of his friends and by accumulating small amounts. But how long can that last? Perhaps within two, three or four years, he will have to give up everything

because he does not get any help. We direct all our capital towards the big industries which really do not need it and are strong enough to be self-sufficient, while it is the small industries that really employ the most people. If we came to the assistance of these small industries, if we enabled them to live and to produce something, we would stop importing.

In my area, we do not get in 40 per cent of the garden products we need. Why? Because farmers get no assistance whatsoever. I am very glad that these two departments are being joined together, because whenever surpluses had to be disposed of we were always sent from the Department of Industry to the Department of Trade and vice versa. From now on, we will deal with the same minister. We will then be able to have him sit down and to tell him: Hold on, we are going to try and solve our problem.

In my area, for instance, we used to have to wait almost a year before the surpluses of milk powder were marketed, and the manufacturer had no more space to store his product, while the Minister of Trade and Commerce was travelling across the country in order to sell wheat. I am not against selling wheat. In fact, I used to say to the former minister (Mr. Winters): Just go on a ten-day trip, once a year, and try to sell dairy products. You go around 365 days a year trying to sell wheat. I do agree that selling wheat is a must but he should also have concerned himself with our surpluses. That is the point on which I want to draw the present minister's attention. It is all very well to produce but what about selling the product? If we do not manage that turnover, we cannot increase production. It is simply impossible. The minister should bear this in mind, from the very start.

If the minister could make up his mind today that he is going to give priority to the average-size industry, he may be sure that his department would work like a charm, in the province of Quebec and across Canada as well.

If we go on forgetting about the small industry, we shall have a smaller number of rich people and a greater number of poor ones. Whether you be a businessman, a worker, or a consumer, the best answer to unemployment is to boost the small industry, instead of driving our farmers away from the land, as inspectors are doing now with their farm loans. They say: Leave the farm, you