

Mr. WILTON: Yes. I have a dispatch from Fort Erie which states:

The 24th of May movement was the heaviest on record here, however, it being estimated about 10,000 purely Canadian cars were handled.

Discussing this matter yesterday I referred to the cooperation of Buffalo business men with the railways in putting on cheap railway excursions out of Canada. Buffalo business concerns have advertised in Canadian newspapers in which they show bargains over the week-end. They induce Canadian people to go over and take advantage of the \$100 exemption. An article from the Hamilton Spectator is as follows:

New customs regulations cause exodus to Buffalo.

Hundreds and hundreds of Hamilton people spent the holiday week end in Buffalo, N.Y., and spent thousands and thousands of Hamilton dollars. Many of these holiday trippers—the larger percentage of them, according to reliable reports—were taking advantage of the government's \$100 exemption for a 48-hour stay and buying various commodities selling at a reputedly lower figure than the prices in Canadian stores.

T. H. & B. railway officials to-day stated that approximately 1,400 passengers had used their facilities over the week-end. These were in addition to the regular travellers. No estimate of the number who motored to Buffalo could possibly be given, but the number would, no doubt, be larger, than that going by rail.

Discussing the holiday exodus, several people who spent Sunday and Monday in the border city, remarked that it looked as though Hamilton had been transplanted temporarily. They had never seen so many familiar faces in a strange city at the same time, they said, and they were constantly meeting acquaintances in stores, theatres and restaurants.

An hon. MEMBER: They will come back.

Mr. WILTON: Yes, with their pockets empty, and the business men of Hamilton will lose that amount of business. That is the point I make. This is a dispatch from Fort Erie:

Canadian custom-excite officials at the frontier port of Fort Erie said to-day a large quantity of merchandise of a personal nature, such as boots, shoes, clothing etc., had been brought back by the thousands of Canadians who crossed the international border here during the week-end observing Victoria day across the line, and took advantage of the new law.

At the same time officials here further added an exact total of the amount so imported would not be available until late to-day when the large staff of men here had all turned in the official memoranda taken from tourists returning by boat, bridge and railway train.

The 24th of May movement was the heaviest on record here, however, it being estimated about ten thousand purely Canadian cars were handled.

According to those figures I would say that from the city of Hamilton alone not less than

\$7,000 or \$8,000 of Hamilton money was spent in the city of Buffalo over the week-end, to the detriment of Hamilton business men. On Monday of this week I interviewed some of the business men of that city upon which occasion they told me that their Saturday business last week was less than it had been on the corresponding day in a number of years, due to the exodus of Hamilton people to the city of Buffalo to take advantage of the \$100 exemption.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford): Do any of the Americans spend money in Hamilton?

Mr. WILTON: Oh, yes.

Mr. ELLIOTT (Middlesex): Has there been any objection?

Mr. WILTON: I am pointing out that we are doing business with American merchants to the detriment of Canadian merchants.

An hon. MEMBER: It works both ways.

Mr. DUNNING: May I say to the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Wilton) that no item in the budget has brought quite so much by way of commendation in correspondence as has this particular item. The great bulk of that commendation came from merchants stretching all the way from Halifax to Vancouver—I repeat, merchants. I shall go further and say that from the hon. member's own city of Hamilton we received commendation for this action on the part of the Canadian government. It is strange, if they thought they would lose money or be ruined, that they should write commending the instrument of their ruin. I am quite sure, if my hon. friend canvasses Hamilton, he will find that there are merchants in his own city—I can give him the names privately; I do not at the moment recall them, but I shall have them hunted up—who commend this provision.

With respect to the newspaper dispatches, which seem to be exaggerated a little in the light of the actual information for the very period concerned for which the Minister of National Revenue gave the figures a few moments ago, I would point out that only 465 of all that vast number of cars contained people who took advantage of the \$100 exemption. The minister gave the figures and they showed that the average declaration was in the neighbourhood of \$24 each. That was on an occasion when all the circumstances conspired to bring about the maximum use of the privilege, for the reason that May 25 was a holiday following a Sunday and a Saturday, which enabled people to take the maximum advantage of the forty-eight hour