to see them find a solution to their own problem. But we Canadians are not on the sidelines. This is not merely a problem of dollar shortage in Great Britain. We must sell in the export markets of the world if we are to survive. Our economy is a delicate and very highly specialized one. No other country has greater opportunities for the future than we have to sell our goods in the markets of the world. No other country has greater concern about the solution of this problem, which, as I said before, is not a problem of dollars, but a problem of world trade. It is a problem that affects us almost as directly as it does the people of Great Britain. If Britain is short of dollars, then we lose our established market for a very large part of our products of the farms, the forests, the mines and the sea.

It cannot be repeated too often that jobs on the farm, in the factory, the forest, the mine or anywhere else in Canada depend upon trade and the money which comes from that trade. There is only one sure solution of our problem, and that is to bring about as soon as possible an interchangeability of currency which will give us the widest possible markets, not only in Great Britain but throughout the whole sterling area. The revaluation of the pound and other European currencies marks a vitally important step in the history of the economic problems of the past few years. The next step, and one which the Canadian government should explore in every possible way with the government of the United Kingdom, is to find some means by which the Canadian dollar and the pound may be freely interchangeable. This is no suggestion outside of the realm of practical international exchange or operation. It was the clearly stated intention of the international monetary fund. Every effort should be directed toward the taking of that second step, which is quite as important in its ultimate results as the first.

There has been a tendency to look upon increased exports to the United States as a satisfactory substitute for exports to Great Britain and other countries overseas. I am sure that all Canadians want to see exports to the United States increased to the highest possible level. One thing we must remember, however, is that the whole system of transportation and distribution is designed to handle an enormous overseas trade. Our railways, our seaports, our shipping, and all the many services associated with them, as well as the municipal organization of the seaports themselves, depend upon continued trade overseas. There is no more important task facing the government than that of taking such steps as will ensure the maintenance and expansion of that overseas trade. Primarily this means trade arrangements, through some adjustment of the financial problem, with Great Britain; because the solution of the exchange problem with Great Britain will carry with it the solution of the exchange problem throughout the rest of the sterling area.

There is an added reason why a solution to this problem must be found. Competition is becoming keener every day. Many products which we have been able to sell almost without competition since the end of the war must now be sold in competition with the products of countries which are rapidly restoring themselves to pre-war levels of production, or even higher.

It is necessary for Canadians to remember that there are two nations which present a very real question mark in this whole matter, namely, Germany and Japan. Now that western Germany has been established as a nation, there will be increasing insistence upon their right to trade freely with other nations. The Germans have great industrial skill. The world has had much too tragic evidence of that fact to make any emphasis of it necessary. Already a number of their products are being sold in Canada. It is difficult to see how Germany can be excluded from some measure of free competitive trading, unless she is to be held down to a point which might encourage the spread of communism, which the western powers are trying so hard to prevent. Undoubtedly this will be a problem calling for the utmost wisdom on the part of those who are supervising the rebirth of what, it is hoped, will be a free and democratic German nation.

All these remarks would apply with almost the same force to Japan. We had evidence of Japan's great industrial skill. Small though it may be, the products of that country are beginning to re-appear in Canada. They too have a very high degree of skill. In years gone by they demonstrated their willingness to put every effort into export trade; and if they are given an opening to the markets of the western world, undoubtedly they will sell at prices which will make competition increasingly strong.

Then there are the great industrial nations of Europe. Although Czechoslovakia is behind the iron curtain, she is selling to the western world; and we know that she too has high industrial skills. Czechoslovakia, so long as she is permitted to sell to the western world, will provide extremely keen competition.

It seems to me all this points to the fact that as soon as possible we must get ourselves out of the strait-jacket of controlled international trading. If we are to meet the kind of competition growing up in the sterling area; if we are to meet the kind of competition emerging from the revitalization and