

brought about a stagnation of trade. Yet the new leader of the Tory party states in this house that he believes in trade agreements and reductions in taxation! The impressions of youth are hard to eradicate.

The leader of the opposition states that we have not reduced taxation, and yet in the same breath he complains that the three per cent excise tax has been removed. Let me quote a few words from the speech of the governor general:

The Canada-United States agreements have involved, in addition to the wider markets secured for Canadian products, a thorough-going revision of the Canadian tariff structure, and a reduction of taxes on trade much greater than that made by any previous parliament, or by any other country in recent years.

Do our hon. friends opposite think for one moment that the intelligent electors of Canada, who suffered so much during the five years the party opposite were in office, will vote against a government that has done more than the government of any other country in the world to reduce taxes and encourage trade?

The present Liberal party is no more perfect than any other man-made organization. I had hoped for some constructive criticism this year from the official opposition after their three years of subjugation. They were recently delivered from bondage at a convention of their party, and I had hoped that during this session they might show themselves worthy of retaining their present position after the next election, which is all they can hope to retain. Whatever may be said about the Grits and the Tories, it cannot be denied that they have been democratic in principle, and we do not want to see the present official opposition relegated to third or fourth place in this house. I think their new leader has had ample proof of that.

The recent visit of President Roosevelt to Canada was significant in many ways. His assurance during that visit of the loyalty of his great nation to this dominion in case of invasion should dispel from the minds of our opponents their apparent fear that our United States neighbours are not to be trusted. I think our hon. friends can be reassured that with Liberal governments in office in Canada and the United States, trade treaties will be respected in both countries. The treaties of 1935 and 1938 are but the beginning of freer trade arrangements than have hitherto existed between these two peace-loving countries. I suppose there would be a great many obstacles to the removal of the present strict immigration regulations now in existence in both countries, but I cannot see any reason why such barriers should continue to exist. I

[Mr. Grant.]

believe their removal would result beneficially to both the United States and Canada. While I am not in favour of opening the gate to foreign immigration, I doubt the wisdom of dividing the north American continent into two pens.

The brilliant young member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Maybank) stated in effect some days ago that when the present leader of the opposition was Minister of Railways and Canals in the previous government he was responsible for certain amalgamations and reductions in the railway service, and that the people of this country feared amalgamation, but the hon. leader of the opposition denied this charge in emphatic terms. During his term of office, however, as Minister of Railways and Canals, the Elmira branch line in my constituency was closed out entirely as far as passenger service was concerned, and the Post Office Department was obliged to establish a mail route to serve this territory. Another line, the Murray Harbour branch, was reduced to three trains a week, and in this instance a mail route of approximately eighty miles had to be established by the Post Office Department.

Mr. MANION: I do not want to interrupt the hon. gentleman's essay, but I should like to point out that when I was Minister of Railways and Canals I had nothing to do with the running of trains any more than the present Minister of Transport (Mr. Howe) has anything to do with that. I had nothing to do with the closing of branch lines or anything of that sort. That was done by the management of the road without consultation with the government. I think the Minister of Transport will tell my hon. friend that if he does not know it already.

Mr. GRANT: I said, during the hon. gentleman's term as Minister of Railways. Another line, the Cardigan branch, was scheduled to be reduced to three trains a week, and the railway time-table contained the change, but a certain minister without portfolio in the late government happened to be operating a general store on the Cardigan line and that part of the time-table was never put into effect.

But let it be said to the credit of the present Minister of Transport (Mr. Howe) and the management of the road that we succeeded in having the train services restored in my constituency, to such an extent at least that the mail routes referred to were done away with during our first year in office, and indignation meetings which were at least semi-annual occurrences during the Tory rule have not occurred in a single instance since 1935. These