

*The Address—Mr. St. Laurent*

now proceeding in his province could not proceed at the same pace. So that we have good reason, whether we be of his province or of my province, to see in this prospective development an earnest of the great continued industrial development in our respective provinces. I hope that the attempt being made in the congress of the United States at this time to have the agreement of 1941 approved will turn out to be successful.

I think it is only fair for us to say that if we cannot at this time get implementation of this agreement for the double-barreled purpose of navigation and power, the value of the power is so great that we shall have to give very serious consideration to going ahead and developing it on the power side alone—which would be amply justified, I think, by the economic benefits which could be derived from the power alone.

The next paragraph deals with the legislative provisions necessary to implement agreements for the sale of agricultural products to the United Kingdom. One hon. member this afternoon was most anxious that there be an opportunity to discuss problems of the agriculturists in the western provinces. He was, I am sure, happy to note, if he did note it, that the first step for the presentation of this legislation to the Canadian parliament was taken this very afternoon. I shall not enter into the details of it; and I am not sure that if the hon. member were to read the views of Sir John A. Macdonald on the proper scope of a debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne he would not come to the conclusion that he had better wait until this legislation is before parliament to discuss the matters to which he was referring this afternoon.

With respect to the international trade agreement, the charter for the international trade organization, and the efforts being made by the government, its commissioners and staffs abroad to remove specific obstacles to the sale of our goods in our traditional markets, I shall not say anything at this time, beyond pointing out the fact that there is a continuing committee which was established by the governments of the United Kingdom and Canada, when Sir Stafford Cripps was here in the autumn, to supervise the trend of trade between our two countries. This committee is at this very moment sitting in London, the meeting having been convened there on January 25.

At this time I would say that I believe there are things in our relations with our good friends of the United Kingdom which are more important than the specific terms of any one of these special agreements. I think they mean to treat us fairly, and I think it is very important that we treat them fairly. There have been some reports of actions taken

by us and of actions taken by them which have left an unfortunate impression as to the genuine desire existing on both sides to have as full and as cordial trading relations with each other as possible. I believe the continuing committee will be able to achieve for us in that field, as well as in the field of the actual shillings and pence or dollars and cents involved, very beneficial results.

We have found ourselves in pretty tight corners more than once in world affairs. We have been proud to stand shoulder to shoulder, and we have been successful because we were standing shoulder to shoulder. In spite of our best hopes for the future of the world, mankind being what it is we cannot be sure that in the future there will not be other tight corners for us to stand in. I think it is most important that we conserve, with respect to each other, the feeling that we deal fairly with each other, that we are pretty good people with whom to have collaboration, and that it would be most unfortunate if, as the result of reports they get of what is going on elsewhere, our people were to come to the conclusion that we were being let down by the people of the United Kingdom.

I do not think we are. Under very difficult circumstances I think they are doing their best, and this matter of the balance of payments and dollar shortage is something which is real. So far as we were concerned, we knew it was real just a little over a year ago. We had to take measures which were distasteful to us and distasteful to the Canadian people. But at that time we planned a course which has succeeded. Perhaps we have been fortunate; but things have turned out as we planned them. And over the period which has elapsed since the putting into force of our restrictions, our reserves of United States dollars have doubled. We felt it was necessary to the economic security of this country to have them doubled.

We must realize that those having the responsibility for the economic security of other countries are entitled to take the measures which appear to them inevitable to attain that degree of security their people expect from them.

Something has been said about the fact that during the war the urgency of the danger made it necessary for the federal government to encroach upon the field normally reserved to the provincial authorities. This is so. We had to do it, to a large degree, as a consequence of the necessity of warding off the danger which threatened our very existence. That was recognized by my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew). I wish to pay him that tribute. He made no com-