

Mr. LEMIEUX: I might very well have read the fourth clause. I read from this circular just to show the necessity of Canada taking part in the economic conference at Paris. I regretted the absence of a Canadian delegate at that conference.

There was, however, no thought on my part of avoiding this issue, and I did not say that I committed myself to the preferential trade policy. I am, however, willing to listen to such an idea as my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce has presented, and to any arguments in favour of it. I stated that theories that were roseate and that had captured men's hearts and heads before the war would crumble to pieces after the war. I even expect some of my Tory friends to be free traders after the war. Therefore I am open to conviction, but I sincerely regret that Canada shall not be represented at that Paris conference and shall not give expression to her views.

Mr. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for myself I was not in the House this afternoon when my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce made his speech. I can, however, quite agree with the remark made by my hon. friend from Vancouver (Mr. Stevens), that it was a most eloquent and able speech. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce has the faculty of making good speeches and of giving expression to good ideas. Unfortunately, however, his colleagues do not always seem to agree with him, or at least they do not back him up to any considerable extent. Not long ago we listened to one of the most eloquent speeches ever heard in this House delivered by my hon. friend, I think, on the Budget, when he spoke of the advisability of cutting out political patronage and of having a public committee appointed to deal with all requests for the expenditure of public money before the items were placed in the Estimates. That was a very fine idea, but it does not seem to have been impressed very strongly upon his colleagues, because the Estimates have been coming down in department after department, perhaps not quite as large as in the last year or two, but extremely large, and one minister after another has been asking for millions of dollars which they claim they do not expect to expend during the current year.

My only reason for saying a word on this occasion is this, that I understand that my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Com-

merce is proposing to expend a considerable sum of money in looking over the whole face of the earth in an endeavour to find new outlets for trade between Canada and other countries with which we are not trading at the present time. I quite agree with the general proposition that it is very desirable and necessary for Canada to secure additional trade if at all possible; but the point that I particularly wish to impress upon my hon. friend is that in every case where he will send commissioners to secure additional trade with Canada, that trade is secured at a great cost. In every case, particularly if you secure a trade arrangement with any foreign country at a distance, in addition to the expense of securing that trade, you have to subsidize steamship lines to carry it, so that the taxpayer of Canada has to put his hand into his pocket and out of any profits that are made from the trade he has to pay for securing ships to carry the freight backwards and forwards between Canada and whatever country the trade arrangement has been made with. Let us take the case of the trade arrangement that my hon. friend made with the West Indies. It is very good in its way, but it has not amounted to much, and it has meant a heavy expense. If we trade with our own sister colonies, Australia or New Zealand, we have to grant large steamship subsidies. If my hon. friend secures additional trade arrangements with other countries, there will be large expenditures in subsidies in order to make that trade possible. What I want to point out in particular is that right at our own door for the asking more trade can be done in one week than can be done in a year with any other country with which my hon. friend can form a trade arrangement after paying sweetly to get it. Right at our own door is a population of between ninety and a hundred million people who are wanting to trade with us, who are already trading with us to a large extent, who are doing more trade with us than Canada is doing with the whole world. Canada, with a population of about 7,500,000, buys approximately twice as much from the United States as the ninety or a hundred million people buy from us and we have to pay the difference by trade with other countries. Those people want to buy from us. My hon. friend could enable them to do so by a turn of the hand, and it would be of great advantage to the people of Canada. In many parts of Canada the people have