

Combines Investigation Act

for Burnaby-Richmond to move the amendment formally because he has worked quietly, I know, but most effectively, consistently and conscientiously on this committee. I say again, finally, that he has kept up a fairly steady pressure along the lines that surely it is not beyond the ingenuity of the government and its advisers to find a solution to this important problem.

Mr. Drysdale: Before moving the amendment, I should like the opportunity to supplement perhaps and to underline some of the remarks made by the Minister of Justice. Of all the amendments we have considered in connection with this bill I think this amendment concerning the export trade is the most important one to come before the committee. In order to underline the importance of it and to put the matter in accurate perspective I hope the committee will forgive me for elaborating a little bit on at least some of the argument that was covered in the committee.

I should like to refer to monthly letter No. 5 of May 16, 1960, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. I feel that this letter puts forward succinctly the problem of industry. On page 3 in an article under the heading "The nature of Canada's Trade", the following is stated:

The outstanding features of Canadian trade are its immense importance to the economy and its specialized nature. By any accounts Canada is a great trading nation. Notwithstanding a relatively small population, Canada ranks by value as the fourth largest trading nation in the world, following such giants as the United States, the United Kingdom, and West Germany. On a per capita basis, of course, Canada relies more heavily than even these nations on foreign trade. Although the importance of foreign trade has diminished with more broadly based development, commodity exports still account for 15 per cent of the gross national product, equivalent to \$292 per head of the population.

In the same article it is further stated as follows:

Exports still primarily consist of a relatively few staple products from the lands, forests, and mines, while imports cover a whole range of consumer, industrial and capital goods.

The Minister of Justice has emphasized the problem of competition from the U.S.S.R. There is also to be considered the factor of various regional trading blocs throughout the world. There is also to be considered the development by Japan and western Europe or the re-establishment of many of the markets they formerly had in North America and the re-establishment of these markets has resulted in a decline in the North American export trade.

Coming from British Columbia may I say that the matter of exports is of prime importance to me. We had briefs from three organizations, namely fisheries, forests and

[Mr. Fulton.]

mines. The fisheries industries export two thirds of its products which is produced in British Columbia. The forest industry exports an average of 70 per cent of its products. In 1959, of total exports of \$5,100 million, one third of those exports were from the forest industry. British Columbia contributed one-third of that amount, or some \$650 million. As a matter of fact, out of every dollar earned in British Columbia some 50 cents comes from the export industry. The mining industry contributes about 40 per cent of the export trade, a total of about \$1.9 billion.

The question may be asked: what was the reason for this amendment. I think it is primarily a matter of clarifying what is the situation regarding the export trade. I think doubt was raised, first of all, by the fish inquiry in British Columbia taken in conjunction with the statements made in the Howard Smith Paper case. Observations were made at that time by Mr. Justice Taschereau and Mr. Justice Cartwright that once it had been established that a conspiracy had been undertaken there was no power to proceed to determine whether or not it was to the economic detriment of the public. I feel that in view of these doubts and in view of the strong briefs put forward by industry it is important that this amendment should be inserted for the purpose of clarification.

I feel that economic competition is more insidious and more dangerous, perhaps, than the threat of nuclear war, because economic competition can destroy a nation without any physical evidence. I feel that at the present time Canada is on the verge of a tremendous economic struggle and I think it is important we should clarify the position of our exporters who are facing the competition of international cartels so as to enable them to fight this economic battle on the same basis as their competitors.

In the United Kingdom, in corresponding legislation, the public interest is taken as the keynote. But it has also been considered to be in the public interest to make sure that export traders do not compete with each other to the detriment of the export situation in which they are involved merely to facilitate the situation with regard to the domestic market. I feel that this amendment permits the export trade to make arrangements to meet the competition of international cartels. The public interest is also the keynote here, and I feel that domestically both the producer and consumer are protected by the amendment. I therefore move the amendment to which the Minister of Justice has referred.

Mr. Pickersgill: I was interested to hear the Minister of Justice say that the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond who has