

but the opinion of the business community can be a valuable factor in promoting international good will.

We do not claim finality for the Committee's proposals, but we do advocate their full consideration by the organisations represented at this meeting. I believe them to be in the best interests of our own people and of the trade and commerce of the world in general. (Cheers.)

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM OF INTERNATIONAL INTERCOURSE.**

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon Mr. Vyle to deal with the subject of "The Importance of Freedom of International Intercourse."

MR. GILBERT C. VYLE: I feel it a privilege to be here to-day and to take part in a discussion which will go a good deal wider than this room and possibly a great deal wider than this country. My contribution towards what has been so ably said to-day is to draw your attention to the obvious, and to lay some emphasis upon that part of the report which deals with the importance of the freedom of international intercourse. What is in the mind of everyone here is, I hope, to find some way of reducing the enormous waste of unemployment in this country, amounting to a huge army of more than 1.43 millions of people up to date. No nation, however rich, can support indefinitely such an army of idle hands, who have to be supported by the working efforts of the rest of the community. Our crying need at the present time is undoubtedly more export trade. Anyone who studies the recent figures issued of our national trading must feel profound alarm at the huge excess of our imports over our exports.

If, therefore, by any means we can so increase our export trade as to bring more and more of our idle people into employment, and into a better standard of comfort, one of the first processes to be gone through is that of the personal negotiation of whatever business we can induce to this country. To me, the freedom of international intercourse is surely at the base of our aspirations. The Trade Barriers Committee recommends the conclusion of an international convention abolishing between the signatory States and for all classes of travellers the obligation of having to obtain a visa to enter or pass through any country. A good deal has been done towards this end, and in a number of countries now no visa