

The Budget—Mr. Blair

And hon. members will note the reference to "some means".

There are great areas of unoccupied fertile land in the Canadian northwest and in the older provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia. Improved farms can be purchased in the neighbourhood where all the snug conveniences of life may be enjoyed.

That was the propaganda sixty years ago—the mention of the snug conveniences of life.

Free farms of 160 acres can be obtained in the Canadian northwest. For information apply to the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada, or to James Anderson, suite 509, Stock Exchange Building, Chicago, Illinois.

I like that homey expression about the snug conveniences. Tonight I am going to discuss the dairy industry of Canada as one might find it in my own county, the county of Lanark. I am well acquainted with the farming district in the county of Lanark, and a large part of that county is peculiarly adapted to dairy farming.

Lanark has been recognized for years as an important centre in the dairy industry in Canada, especially in cheese production. The land is suitable for this type of industry. It has large areas of pasturage, well watered, and has fertile valleys capable of raising crops for the winter feeding of stock. For over sixty years Lanark has been closely associated with the production of cheese, especially cheddar cheese for export and for domestic consumption.

Cheese is produced mainly in the months from May 1 to the middle of November, and factories are closed during the winter months. There is practically no winter cheese manufactured during the winter season. Dairy farming is an occupation which requires long hours of hard work—not even a six-day week. Even on Sundays the cows must be milked and cared for; milk must be pasteurized and cooled in order that it may reach the market in good condition the following day.

Not only that, the dairy herd requires constant care and supervision and it takes years to build up a good dairy herd and to secure high production. But there is another fact that is very apparent, and that is that better breeding has lessened the immunity to diseases of cattle, such as tuberculosis, and so on, and has left the high-grade herd owner liable to serious financial losses, if his herd should become infected. In addition to the purchase price of high-producing dairy herds, there is the cost of maintenance of equipment, barns, silos and so on, as well as labour. The overall cost of production makes dairy farming an expensive proposition.

[Mr. Blair.]

Dairying is one of the most important industries in Canada. Almost 450,000 farmers are dependent upon the receipts from the dairy industry as a source of income. The industry provides two million Canadians with either all or part of their livelihood, and this includes those engaged in the production, processing and distribution, as well as those supplying various services and equipment. It contributes more than \$600 million annually to our national commerce. As a source of income, the products of dairy cattle rank first in farm income. In addition to milk and its products, 40 per cent of the beef and 60 per cent of the veal consumed by Canadians are products of dairy cattle. Food is of course the main product. Bottled milk, butter, cream, cheese, ice cream, powdered milk, evaporated milk and many other types of food are provided by the dairy herds. Health authorities point out the value of dairy products as one of the most essential foods.

Dr. L. B. Pett of the nutrition division of the Department of National Health and Welfare has stated that no type of food is more important to health and good nutrition than milk products, and that no type of food will receive greater emphasis in the future of Canada and the rest of the world. Milk is regarded as the perfect food. Nutritionists point out that dairy products supply 81 per cent of the calcium required for the human body, 57 per cent of the riboflavin, 17 per cent of vitamin A and other equally important vitamins. One pint of milk per day will provide an adult with 93 per cent of the minimum requirement of calcium, 83 per cent of riboflavin, and high percentages of other necessary vitamins. The Canadian housewife spends 20 cents of every dollar for milk and dairy products, but in return she gets more than one-third of all the nutrients she feeds her family.

I was rather pleased that the hon. member who preceded me brought up the question of conservation because conservation is closely associated with the dairying industry. We are now spending millions of dollars each year on conservation and we are constantly being warned about exhausting our soil and water and so on. Two years ago this house passed a bill dealing with conservation, while in Ontario a select committee of the legislature brought in an important report after it had studied the matter for months.

This is a most important subject which covers a wide range. It has to do with the control of rivers and streams and the building of dams; it has to do with replanting trees which have been cut from our hillsides and