

with anxious eyes toward the Douglas system, inflation, bimetalism and many other isms. They are groping around expecting to find some solution, some system which will improve the standard of living.

I want to speak for just a few moments on an industry which I discussed before in this house, and that is the beet sugar industry. On February 24, 1932, I had the honour of introducing in the house a resolution dealing with the beet sugar industry. At that time I pointed out that it was one which would be a great help to the people of western Canada. The hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Stewart) also spoke on this question, because he has within his constituency a beet sugar factory. We pointed out that in Canada only 10 per cent of the raw material used for the manufacture of sugar was home grown, whereas in the United States the percentage was from 20 to 25 per cent and in the mother country also from 20 to 25 per cent. We pointed out that the establishment of a beet sugar factory would be a great help to the district in which it would be located, because it would mean the employment of a number of people, would provide traffic for the transportation companies and would consume a great deal of material, thus creating a market for the dealers in and manufacturers of that material. We pointed out also that the valuable by-products would help other secondary industries and that the cattle industry would be greatly benefited thereby.

This resolution was amended in such a way as to have the matter referred to a committee of this house, and the agriculture committee dealt very thoroughly with the question. They called before them witnesses from every part of the country. These witnesses stated that sugar beets constituted a very profitable crop; they pointed out that it was of great value in the rotation of crops, and they gave much information regarding this industry in Canada. Among the men who appeared before the committee were:

H. Marshall, Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

Doctor T. W. Grindley, Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

W. R. Reek, Director of Experimental Farms, Ridgetown, Ontario.

Thomas Simpson, farmer, Pretoria, Ontario.

G. L. Rogers, President, British Columbia Sugar Refining Company, Vancouver.

B. R. McMullen, Alberta Beet Growers' Association.

Charles Houston, President, Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, Chatham, Ontario.

Alexander W. McIntyre, Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, Chatham, Ontario.

W. F. Russell, Alberta Beet Growers' Association.

[Mr. Gershaw.]

Day after day these witnesses were examined; the whole question was thoroughly discussed, and I should like to say that the discussion was watched with great interest by hundreds of people who had located on irrigated farms, who had tried year after year to make their overhead costs and who had failed owing to the collapse of prices. It was watched by people who had some hope that they would be able to produce sugar beets, a crop of high acreage value, and in that way be able to meet their overhead on their irrigated farms. They have been rather disappointed. The report of the committee came into the house on April 1, 1932, and I should like briefly to indicate its nature. It was in part as follows:

The evidence submitted established the following facts regarding the industry:

1. That the production of sugar beets has been carried on very profitably in certain districts of Ontario and Alberta.

The amount paid to the farmers for beets in 1931 was about \$2,500,000; during the period of normal commodity prices for farm products, an average price of \$7.48 per ton was paid to the farmers for sugar beets, but owing to the present low price of raw cane and refined sugar, the factories claim that they are unable to guarantee more than \$5 per ton for the 1932 crop.

2. That large additional areas, suitable for the growth of sugar beets, are available in Canada.

3. That during the past ten years the annual average production of refined sugar in Canada was 963,000,000 pounds; the percentage of beet sugar production has varied from 6.2 per cent in 1926 to approximately 10 per cent in 1930 and 1931.

4. That the sugar beet factories at Chatham, Wallaceburg and Raymond, are now operating at full capacity, and that no further development of the beet sugar industry in Canada is possible until manufacturing capacity is increased.

5. That world stocks of sugar on hand are very large and that an extended surplus of some 4,000,000 tons will be carried over to next year.

6. That there is sufficient capacity in the cane sugar refineries of Canada to refine two and one half times the amount of sugar necessary to meet the demands of the Canadian consumers.

7. That the granting of bonuses or subsidies at present to encourage the production of sugar from beets was not favoured by the representatives of the growers or the refiners.

8. That the consumption of sugar from Winnipeg to British Columbia is approximately 255,000,000 pounds, supplied from eastern Canada as far westward as the Brandon district, and from Vancouver eastward to the Brandon district, except for the 30,000,000 pounds of beet sugar manufactured at Raymond, Alberta.

9. That freight rates on sugar from Raymond to prairie points are from one-half to three-quarters of a cent per pound less than rates to similar points from Vancouver or Montreal.