

The Address—Mr. Poulin

very important. I refer to the pressures now being exerted by Canadian milk producers in order to have the tariffs raised on imports of vegetable oils used in the manufacture of margarine.

It will readily be admitted that margarine constitutes a threat to the security of the butter market in Canada and consequently to the whole dairy industry, of which it is the main item.

Last April I quoted certain figures which I do not intend to repeat but which seemed, at the time, to be fairly conclusive. I have received more than 500 cards from the farmers of Beauce constituency, asking the government to protect the dairy industry against the admittance into Canada of vegetable oils. It seems to me that our leaders should study this request. Customs duties are raised all around to protect all kinds of manufactured goods. Why, then, should farmers not be allowed to claim for themselves tariff protection for a product essential to their survival? The farmers are a basic element in this country. Let us not jeopardize the economic security of our people by neglecting to take the necessary means to protect an essential part of our production.

The federal authorities are now considering the complaint made by Canadian textile manufacturers, to the effect that the dumping in Canada of 140,000 pairs of cotton gloves manufactured in Czechoslovakia is threatening the Canadian manufacturers. They are quite right. In my opinion, the Canadian textile worker must be protected and I am all the more interested in this because the constituency of Beauce has both large and small textile mills. I therefore hope the government will be in a position to settle the problem to the greater advantage of the Canadian manufacturer, of course, but especially for the protection of our workers who, otherwise, would suffer from unemployment and distress.

But why, then, should the same thing not be done to protect the product most essential to eastern Canada's agriculture? It seems to me that to consider seriously the problem is to have already solved it in part. I am convinced that milk producers generally will not have appealed in vain to the generosity of the government and of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) in particular.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss briefly a subject which is of great importance to the people of Quebec, I mean the report of the Massey commission on national development in the arts, letters and sciences.

At the time of confederation Quebec had refused legislative union in order to be in a better position to keep its characteristics intact and to keep on shaping its future in accordance with such characteristics. Of capital importance among these were education and teaching, so much so that the fathers of confederation took the trouble to write them out in section 93 of the British North America Act, thus making sure that that particular point of the mutual pact could never be modified in the future without the mutual consent of the contracting parties. Who will dare state that Quebec is ready to change that? Who will dare claim that the province of Quebec is ready to surrender to federal authorities part of its exclusive rights in the field of education at any level?

The report of the Massey commission can change nothing in this condition because the commission is not and has never been authorized to speak on behalf of Quebec. The scholarly lucubrations of a member of that commission, though he be from Quebec, will change nothing in it.

Mr. Cote (Matapedia-Matane): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Poulin: I would rather not be interrupted, if you please. Problems such as schooling or education, academic schooling or popular schooling are too important, too essential to a people's soul, to be solved by playing on words or quibbling. Academic culture reflects the intellectual life of a nation, and popular culture the abundance of this life. The one is inseparable from the other, they are complementary. One represents the trunk, the other the branches, and the branches cannot be severed from the trunk without killing both. What standards will be set in determining which should be at the provincial level and which at the national level?

The Massey commission recommends assistance to the universities after agreement with the provinces. Why did it go into that problem after stating at first it was beyond its purview? And since they decided to study the problem after all, why did they not go the