

stration to the people elsewhere. If we desire this industry to be a success, and if we are anxious to have a large acreage under fibre cultivation, we must present the possibilities of development before the farmer in such a way as will secure his interest. The individual farmer cannot put up a mill of his own, and in no industry to-day is proper co-operation more essential than in the flax industry. Flax cannot be grown in successive years. In some countries it is grown in rotation of five years, and in others of seven years. But if a few farmers had each a small acreage under flax they could co-operatively put up a little mill costing fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars, and they would be in a position to grow flax and ret it, scutch it and put it on the market just as the farmer puts wool on the market. There should then be proper grading and standardization so that the grower would get the maximum profit from his crop. Under present conditions, however, the farmer does not get twenty per cent of the value of the crop, although there is no reason why he should not get a hundred per cent value; and there are ample possibilities in this industry to induce the farmers to develop the cultivation of flax very largely if the matter were only properly placed before them. The advantage of a demonstration station in the district to which I referred would be that farmers visiting it would get the technical and scientific information necessary in the cultivation of flax, and possibly in little groups in a community they could establish a flax mill. An important feature of the industry is the fact that it offers a solution of the year-the-round labour problem on the farm. The farmer who has fifteen or twenty acres of flax can profitably employ a hired man through the winter months, when otherwise he might not be able to find employment for him. I again appeal to the Government to give this subject their most serious consideration. The proposal I have made bears the stamp of approval of the Flax Growers' Association, which comprises men who have achieved success in the industry and who desire to see a portion of that success fall to the lot of others. I trust that at the earliest possible moment the minister, after consultation with those officials in his department who direct these particular branches of industry, will see his way to carry out the recommendations contained in my resolution.

Mr. PROULX: How many flax mills are there in Canada?

Mr. GLASS: There are sixty-four flax mills; in 1914 there were thirteen.

Mr. PROULX: Are most of them in Ontario?

Mr. GLASS: There are three mills in Quebec, and the rest are in Ontario.

Mr. J. F. FAFARD (L'Islet) (translation): Mr. Speaker, we have listened very attentively to the brief address made by the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat (Mr. Glass). His statements were the more interesting to us that this is the fourth time we are privileged to hear them. The only thing that remains for him, and that is no doubt what he proposes to do, though I refrain from giving him such advice, is to have 500 copies of his speech printed and distributed in his county. However, I have no doubt that the people of his constituency will be able to judge him on his merits. Had he been in earnest I think it would have been far easier for him to go and see the Minister of Agricultural and to put his question directly to him, and that would have taken but a few minutes. As a matter of fact, the hon. member has a motion before this House, asking the Government to deal with the development of our natural resources; but he seems to think that flax alone makes up all the natural resources of this country. As far as I am concerned, surely I agree that we must help all our industries and the flax industry is undoubtedly one which requires great attention, but I would have liked to hear the hon. member speak also of the other natural resources of this Dominion.

Now that the war is over, Mr. Speaker, the commercial fight is going to start, and there is no better means to fight this battle than to develop our natural resources. Anyone who has seen the country we live in and who has lived here for a certain number of years cannot but like it, willingly makes sacrifices in its behalf and contributes to its progress. The natural resources of Canada, if we give the words their full meaning, include all our industries.

Canada has not only a very large area of unlimited wealth, but it is also a country which can support itself if we know how to develop our natural resources effectively. Agriculture is most prosperous; it is not only sufficient to feed our people, but it leaves also a surplus of several millions for export. Our immense and almost untouched forests, besides providing us with all