

western Ontario. From this article I would conclude that they are now raising in the state of Illinois the largest crop in the world, outside of Manchuria, of course.

Mr. CAHAN: And Illinois is not a tropical country.

Mr. MacNICOL: For my part I should imagine that the manufacturers would not oppose this because they would welcome having their beans come in free provided they could not obtain all they required in Canada. But for the farmer who wants to get into it, I want to support anything that will help him in Ontario, in British Columbia or any other province, for that matter. I am now speaking of those who I know were engaged in this business in western Ontario. If the soya bean helps them I am for it, because when the farmer has prosperity we all have prosperity.

Mr. DUNNING: I should appreciate it if the committee would allow me to pass the soya bean item. I would then suggest that the committee rise and report progress and endeavour to arrange for my hon. friend the Minister of Pensions (Mr. Power) to get into committee of supply some time before six o'clock. I have only this to say with respect to the remarks of the leader of the opposition. The soya bean is certainly a fascinating bean—I mean that seriously. I do not know of a commodity that grows for which a greater variety of uses has been discovered by man. Broadly one may say that it will grow where corn can be produced commercially. Those areas of Ontario which can produce corn commercially—and they are very small—have a chance, I am advised, to produce soya beans commercially; but the fact that during recent years of very high prices for soya beans the area under cultivation devoted to this purpose in the whole of Canada has not grown beyond ten thousand acres, at least half of which was used for feed, indicates something of the difficulties. I might point out with reference to soya bean oil that it has been free under all tariffs for years past, and soya beans themselves have been free for years for use in making cattle foods and fertilizers, which are among their most prominent uses in this country. During the last five years the finance department has had literally scores of applications for the free entry of the beans, the oil and the meal for various purposes, including foods for human use, oil for industrial uses, soya bean flour for various uses, and it is a moot question whether by having access to all the uses that can be made of soya beans grown elsewhere the

[Mr. MacNicol.]

Canadian citizen would be better off than he would be as a result of an attempt to develop on any important scale the growing of soya beans in Canada. I should be pleased to be able to believe that we could add another product to what is produced from the top six inches of our soil, and particularly so important a product as the soya bean, but up to now—

Mr. CAHAN: Will the hon. gentleman allow a question? Is he sure that soya beans can be raised only in a country that produces corn commercially?

Mr. BRADETTE: Surely. Any farmer knows that.

Mr. CAHAN: Certainly in Manchuria they are producing soya beans in large quantities. They have a country very similar to our own northwest, very similar indeed to Alberta.

Mr. DUNNING: I was endeavouring broadly to indicate the kind of farming country in which it can be produced. I cannot say definitely to my hon. friend that Manchuria is or is not capable of producing corn. Of course I do know that it does produce large quantities of the soya bean.

Mr. CAHAN: Enormous quantities.

Mr. DUNNING: I have enough confidence in the enterprise of Canadian farmers in every province to know that, with the aid in connection with this matter that has been given by experimental farms from one end of Canada to the other in the last twenty years, if it had been practicable commercially, enterprising Canadian farmers would have been growing soya beans at the high prices that have prevailed and are likely to continue to prevail during the next few years.

Mr. MacNICOL: Has the minister any report on the results the farmers have had in western Ontario—Essex, perhaps, Elgin, Norfolk and Lambton—in raising soya beans?

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. MacNICOL: I am not sure that they raise them in all those counties, but a gentleman to whose little factory the leader of the opposition has referred told me that quite a number of farmers in western Ontario are now raising soya beans, and I wondered whether the minister could say what quantity is being produced.

Mr. WOOD: I think I can answer the hon. member, not statistically but from a practical standpoint. A few years ago a neighbour of mine tried the experiment of