

it is the duty of the government to inform the house as fully as possible to what extent these needs are being met, just as it is the duty of an opposition to criticize when criticism seems necessary, and to offer suggestions of a constructive nature.

The second part of the speech from the throne deals with the legislative programme of the government, and, if I may say so, this part of the speech is more conspicuous because of the omission of certain subjects than because of those matters with which it deals. The amendment which was offered by my leader yesterday, and which I intend to support, recites three of these subjects. First, there was the question of man-power; second, the question of labour and third, questions concerning the problems of agriculture. It seems to me most disappointing that nothing is said in the speech from the throne about any solution of the important and immediate problems which confront agriculture. It is true that some suggestion was put forth that a study is to be made in order to see that primary industry shall receive an adequate income after the war, but there is no indication that measures are to be undertaken to overcome the shortage of labour on the farms and to see to it that prices of farm products bear a fair relationship to the cost of the goods and services which the farmer must buy.

It is difficult for me, and I believe the country will find it difficult, to understand why no undertaking to deal with these questions is apparent in the speech from the throne. Certainly some solution must be found; otherwise agriculture will be unable to achieve that effort which we all hope it may put forth. Moreover, I do not believe it will be able to meet the demands which have been placed upon it for higher food production. Those demands necessarily are very heavy. In his speech yesterday the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) made some reference to the volume of foodstuffs being shipped to the United Kingdom, and took unto himself and his government a certain amount of credit for that achievement. Undoubtedly there was a very large production in Canada last year; it was a remarkable achievement. The farmers of Canada worked early and late and did everything humanly possible to bring about that result, and I believe they are entitled to any credit which may accrue because of the magnificent contribution we made in that regard.

I have said that the demands upon agriculture are particularly heavy. Production goals for 1943 were set at a dominion-provincial agricultural conference held last December.

[Mr. Senn.]

I believe that meeting was convened by the agricultural supplies board, and those goals provide for substantial increases in food production as compared with 1942. For instance, in the case of meat an increase of 285,000,000 pounds was asked, or an increase of 16 per cent as compared with 1942 and 18 per cent as compared with 1941. I believe last year we had the greatest production of hogs in the history of Canada, but there the increase asked for is 28.5 per cent, a fairly large increase. In the case of dairy products the increase asked for amounts to some 6 per cent as compared with 1942. I believe the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), who was present at that meeting, gave out figures showing the increases that were asked in various lines of farm production. For instance, in Ontario the increase over 1942 in connection with hogs was some 400,000, or 20 per cent; in the case of butter, 15 per cent; eggs, 15 per cent; lambs, 20 per cent; cattle, 10 per cent; potatoes, 5 per cent, while the production of cheese was to remain at the same level.

I wish to point out that these increases were not asked for in connection with only a few lines of farm products they were requested in connection with almost every line of farm production, and if the house will bear with me I should like to mention the figures in order to show the increases on the wide range of products for 1943. They are as follows:

	Percentage increase
Beef cattle.....	9.0
Hogs.....	28.5
Sheep and lambs.....	12.0
Butter.....	14.7
Powdered milk.....	42.9
Poultry.....	10.0
Eggs.....	29.5
Oats.....	11.6
Barley.....	11.3
Hay and clover.....	7.7
Alfalfa.....	17.4
Flax seed.....	67.6
Sugar beets.....	42.2
Potatoes.....	10.7

I think the house will agree at once that this is a fairly large contribution for agriculture to be asked to make, in view of the conditions existing in the industry at the present time, in view of the shortage of labour and in view of other matters I shall mention as I proceed. I have stated already that production in 1942 was high. Last year we were blessed with bumper crops, and in most sections of the country we enjoyed ideal weather for the harvesting of those crops. But if I may be allowed to say so, I believe those crops were harvested—at least in eastern Canada—at the expense of preparation for