

with his natural yearning for the ownership of a piece of land, and his greater independence and individuality than the city worker, has proven to be a difficult nut to crack.

"But I do not wish to weary you with details. I will go no further than to state that, to our eyes, the Russian system of agriculture is under-mechanized, bedevilled by bureaucracy, cumbersome and wasteful of manpower."

But he went on to say this:

"The vitality and drive of the Russian dictatorship and of its people is, however, clearly illustrated in this field also—

That is the field of agriculture.

—by the fact that during the years 1954 and 1955, they brought under the plow 70 million acres of virgin land; an area so vast that it exceeds by 10 million acres the size of the United Kingdom."

Then as to what had been done in the field of industrial production he had this to say:

"Thus it is that having largely recovered from the damages of war, Russia's economic strength has taken a great step forward during the past five years, and you may have seen in the press only a few days ago that her new five-year plan includes an all-out drive to increase her industrial production by 1960 to two-thirds of the U.S. figure for 1955. In this plan, Russia now declares that she has it within her means to become the world's mightiest industrial nation. Having observed the manner in which Russia in the past has met and frequently exceeded her five-year objectives, I am not prepared to shrug off these recent assertions as being mere boastfulness."

That is what Mr. Duncan says. He continues:

"Do not let us forget, when one considers the amazing increase of Russian industrialization in recent years, that it is based in no small measure upon the good old premise of hard work, to which we also used to be dedicated. Much can be accomplished by a nation where all men and all women work 48 hours a week."

So when we are approving a trade arrangement with the Soviet Union we are approving an arrangement with a country which is making great strides forward in industry and in agriculture. There are political as well as economic implications in that fact

It may be asked—indeed it has been asked, though not in this debate—whether the Soviet Union will carry out the obligation which it has undertaken to Canada with respect to wheat purchases. I think we may have confidence that it will do so. Self-interest, if no other reason, would dictate that it should do so. Apart from its need for wheat, a failure to do so would damage its international reputation in trade matters, and it would appear to be a little bit more sensitive about that reputation now than it was some few years back. Certainly we would regard any failure to fulfil its wheat obligations as a violation of the trade agreement itself. The exchange of letters re purchase of wheat is as binding—and it is understood to be so—as are the articles of the agreement itself.

It should also be emphasized—and this has been pointed out also this afternoon, more particularly by the hon. member for Eglinton—that in this