

conditions, as well as the nature of the soil, have always had a direct influence on the kind of products to be grown.

Rice, tea, coffee and olives would not grow under our Canadian climate. Nobody would encourage the cultivation of bananas, oranges, grapefruits or nuts of any kind in the northern part of the American continent. Our people would not believe their eyes if they suddenly saw hippopotami, elephants, rhinoceroses, giant snakes and monkeys, lions and tigers or other animals of the African jungle, invading our nice St. Lawrence valley, and driving away our peaceful milch cows.

The first settlers of this land and their successors devoted their lives to organizing the dairy industry in Canada. The first milch cows were imported here in 1606. This first experiment did not succeed, but in 1636 other herds of cattle were brought in, and this time cattle raising was definitely established.

At the beginning, herds were so small that they supplied milk only for their owners. But further importations and breeding have been developed to such an extent that in 1946 there were nearly 4,000,000 milch cows in Canada, of which over 1,000,000 were in the province of Quebec.

In 1946 milch cows produced in Canada 16,937,028,000 pounds of milk, which have been used as follows: 325,591,000 pounds of butter; 148,060,000 pounds of cheese; 362,005,000 pounds of concentrated milk; 15,783,000 pounds of ice cream and 4,547,637,000 pounds consumed in its natural state as milk and cream.

Without taking into consideration what is consumed by the farmers, the cash income thus resulting from sales at home and abroad totalled, for the same year, \$285,604,000.

Our green and rich pasture growing meadows, valleys and prairies are naturally appropriate for the raising of milch cows which supply milk and meat to the people. Each year part of the livestock is slaughtered for the butcher trade and replaced by better grade cattle, thus improving the quality of cattle. This industry can be largely developed. The raising of cattle and the production of milk can be increased by at least one-third. If we consider that about 15,000,000 acres of new land can be tilled and that more than 10,000 old abandoned farms could be exploited, we may easily arrive at the conclusion that an increase of one-third is not an exaggeration. Is it not easy to believe that with the cultivation of old and new farms, the improvement of the soil and of the cattle, and with new scientific methods of farming we may

[Mr. Marquis.]

secure for this country such a surplus of live-stock and milk products either for home consumption or for export sales?

Having in mind the amount of money invested in livestock, in buildings and in equipment of all sorts for the maintenance of cattle, and for the production of milk, butter, cheese and evaporated or concentrated milk, we realize that the economy of Canada is intimately linked with the dairy industry and that any policy tending to facilitate the importation or fabrication of oleomargarine would seriously impair our economic structure.

Representing a farming constituency, I am aware of the sacrifices made by our people in modernizing their dairy industry, by improving the quality of their herds of cattle and establishing well equipped butter and cheese factories, many of them managed and operated by co-operatives. Any attempt to bring in an artificial product would surely disrupt the stability of the farming industry in our country, in our province and particularly in our region.

In this post-war period of reconstruction, I do not think artificial methods of production should supersede natural ones. During the war, artificial means were resorted to for supplying the needs of the armed forces and civilians in the devastated areas. Synthetic food has been manufactured to meet a deficiency of natural food. But this was done in extraordinary circumstances, for the supply of people in need, not for those who can have a sufficient production for their maintenance.

In our province, the nature of the soil, the climatic conditions, the farming organization and the necessity of complying with national and international demands, oblige our farmers to stick to the animal industry.

Let us suppose that a synthetic pill could be made to replace bread. What would happen to wheat? Would the wheat growers who contribute so much to our external trade discontinue or decrease their production? Would they grow cotton-seed, soya beans, corn and peanuts instead of wheat? Mr. Speaker, I now move the adjournment of the debate.

(Translation):

Mr. GEORGES H. HEON (Argenteuil): Mr. Speaker, before you call it nine o'clock, could I ask my hon. friend a question? Would the hon. member tell me the source of the figures and statistics he quoted?

Mr. MARQUIS: They are from the Department of Agriculture and the Canada Year Book.