

growing of sugar beets particularly in mind. About 14,000 acres of irrigated land will provide enough sugar beets for one year's run of a factory. It will be seen, therefore, that the prairie farm rehabilitation projects are rapidly reaching a size where they can support sugar beet factories.

I should like to draw to the attention of the committee in as short a time as possible what I consider to be an important matter which has been overlooked in Canada's development. There has been too great a tendency to look upon the sugar beet industry with scorn and contempt as being a matter of little concern. In developing irrigated lands the farmers are confronted with the problem of cleaning their land. They must have something to take the place of the summer fallow, and they might well be at a loss to know what crop to use. For example, in the Enchant area the farmers could raise corn to good advantage if they had a cash market, or if there were a suitable processing plant. However, it might be rather difficult to establish one in that area. The farmers might raise sunflowers if a profit could be made in converting them into ensilage. However, there is no possible profit, as they cannot sell to advantage the ultimate products of butter, milk and cream. There is going to be considerable difficulty as we go forward with these irrigation projects. I speak from considerable experience because we have had irrigation farming in my constituency for some time. There are four distinct irrigation projects, in whole or in part, in my constituency which have been in operation more or less since 1902. The result is that there is to be found in that area an accumulated store of wisdom of which I wish the minister to have the benefit. I am particularly concerned about this because it was reported to me last year that a commitment had been made by the dominion government to the effect that it would not encourage further the development of sugar beet growing in Canada.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not know anything of that.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Let me quote from a statement made by the Canadian representative at the London sugar conference, held in May, 1937. He is reported as saying:

At the same time the government of Canada reiterate the assurance already given that they do not propose to stimulate the production of sugar in Canada during the term of this agreement by subsidy, increased protection, special remission of taxes or by any other similar measure.

Mr. GARDINER: That is a little different. I do not know of any branch of agriculture

that is stimulated by those methods. There is just a possibility that it might be a mistake to start in to stimulate the sugar beet industry by paying bonuses or doing other things of that kind. Making it possible for people to grow sugar beets in irrigated areas is a different matter.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am glad to have the minister's statement on that because it indicates that he is rather in sympathy with the development of the beet sugar industry, which is of great importance to western Canada. When you remember that there has already been expended in Alberta in irrigation projects \$35,000,000, and that the soil and climate of that province is particularly adapted to the production of sugar, and that this industry has been singularly successful in Alberta for years, you can realize that it is an industry which ought not to be disparaged.

To be very brief, this year, for example, there was produced in the harvested sugar beet area where the two beet sugar factories are located in my constituency 3,813 pounds of refined sugar per acre. All one has to do to realize the volume of that production is to imagine thirty sacks of sugar piled on this floor, and remember that that was produced from one acre. It shows the tremendous potentialities of production from irrigated land in raising sugar beets. There was a gross return of \$155 per acre, \$77.50 of which went to the farmer and \$77.50 to the manufacturer, \$25 going to labour. That indicates how important and how deserving of serious consideration this industry is.

I notice the Minister of Labour has been following with close attention, and I am sure he will be deeply interested when I again bring to his notice the fact that one sugar factory in my constituency with a slicing capacity per day of 1,200 tons will support, according to United States figures, ten thousand people. These people are not all, of course, directly engaged in raising or processing sugar beets, but in the allied industries as well, in the production of coal and coke, sacks and a great number of other things used in the production of sugar. Some are engaged on the railways and others in other transportation activities as a result of this sugar production.

I know we are all anxious to get the business of the session closed so I shall just say in conclusion that there is a great possibility in Canada for the development of the sugar industry. The sugar industry is not by any means the ten-cent affair which a number of people have been for some reason or other considering it. It is, on the contrary, a going concern. It has already proven itself beyond