

I wish to thank him for insisting upon the participation of our country in world affairs and, in the same strain, I would like to point out that a former high official of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Archibald, has agreed to perform a highly commendable task by going to Ethiopia at that country's request, in order to assist the FAO in the nutritional and agricultural work it is doing there.

He had already reached retirement age, it seems, but still, at seventy years of age, he answered the call of Ethiopia. In this connection, I was tempted a while ago to point out, after the speech of the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig), that the man who saved France during the 1914-1918 war was Georges Clémenceau, who was then eighty years old.

Yesterday, our colleague from Halifax-Dartmouth (Hon. Mr. Isnor) spoke about the allocation of contracts, and he showed that more than eighty per cent of the contracts let out in December by the defence organization, were given in Quebec and Ontario. I would point out to my honourable colleague that in the Province of Quebec we are complaining of the same situation; we find that Montreal and its surrounding districts obtain almost one hundred per cent of the contracts for goods which are supposed to be let and manufactured in the whole province of Quebec.

This is not intended as unkindly criticism, but I believe that a better distribution of these contracts could be effected by letting sub-contracts. It is evident that jet planes cannot be built at Levis, but in my own city we can manufacture many of the aluminum parts which go into the making of those planes. Most likely the same situation would apply to many other towns in other provinces. By the procedure mentioned, production would be speeded up, manufacturing decentralized, and by the same token, the congestion of larger cities which are already overpopulated, would be relieved. This method would also help to solve the housing shortage in some of the larger cities. I trust that these remarks, which are made in all good will, will not be totally disregarded.

Several colleagues who preceded me mentioned industries and products particular to their own province. We heard about mines, oil, apples, potatoes and coal. So I feel like talking about something in which I am particularly interested, an industry which belongs to the Province of Quebec, the industry of maple products. In another place, one of the members inquired of the government if an investigation had been undertaken to ascertain whether there existed a combine to set the price of maple products. Had I asked this question, I would have added: "Did the

Commissioner for Combines launch an inquiry to ascertain the existence of a possible combine for the manufacture of adulterated maple syrup, which would ruin the maple sugar industry in the Province of Quebec?"

The maple products industry is probably the oldest agricultural industry in this country. Before the white men came to America, the Indians knew that the maple trees produced a sweet water from which was made an excellent syrup used particularly for medicinal purposes.

Twenty-five years ago our sugar manufacturers, that is those from the Province of Quebec, formed a co-operative to rebuild this industry which was in a bad way and even about to disappear. After twenty-five years of struggle this industry has got back to its feet, and I could even say that it has achieved greater importance than it ever enjoyed before. Success in this field, as in many others, creates envy. Today, we do not have to cope with the inefficiency of our farmers, but with the dishonesty of those who own no maple trees but nevertheless manufacture thousands upon thousands of pounds of sugar and syrup which they sell for maple products. In markets throughout the country, a so-called maple syrup is being sold which contains only a few drops of maple sap.

This is the greatest threat to our oldest agricultural industry.

In order to stop these adulterations, the co-operation of the federal and provincial governments must be obtained. Last year, the Government of the Province of Quebec took drastic measures; and I wish to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture of that province in that respect. I am now asking the authorities of the federal Department of Agriculture and of the Department of National Health and Welfare, who enforce throughout the country laws and regulations relating to pure food products, to take the necessary steps to see that the law is observed everywhere, in order to protect the honest producer as well as the honest consumer.

Will my remarks bear fruit, will they gain attention from the authorities concerned? I hope so, in the interest of all our honest maple sugar makers, whether they come from Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick or Nova Scotia.

Let us turn now to more important questions.

One cannot go out on the street without being asked: "What do you think of the present situation? When will the cost of living stop going up? Will war break out?"