

our Canadian farmers, whether they produced lard from the hog, tallow from the steer, or dairy butter at the farm, had been put on a parity with the United States farmer, in respect of this taxation, then the government would have been fair to that Canadian farmer. Had that condition obtained, we would have \$10,000,000 coming into our treasury this year—and I defy anybody to refute those figures. Had that been done, the government would have inspired some confidence among our farmers. Instead of lard selling at 5½ cents a pound in tank cars, as it is selling to-day, it would have received the benefit of the tax against its competitor, namely vegetable oils and shortening, and the farmer would have obtained the advantage. Perhaps he would not have had the advantage of the whole three cents a pound, as suggested, but he would have had a good portion of it.

From every hog we would have about 30 pounds of fat at three cents per pound, bringing the extra value to almost \$1. On 6,000,000 hogs there would have been \$6,000,000 more to place to the credit of the Canadian farmer. The tariff board, an instrument of this administration, made the recommendation to which I have referred. It was tabled a year ago, but no action has been taken. We have missed an opportunity of bringing in \$10,000,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Action was taken on it.

Mr. HOMUTH: Reverse action.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): One further observation I should like to make is this: There are about four interests in Canada which control this industry—two packers and two soap makers. They are big and influential interests. The other evening I heard the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) talking about interests. He said that a certain gentleman exercised a sinister influence because he was one of the big interests. That is what he meant. I am not saying that these big interests exercise any sinister influence. Their heads are loyal citizens and they are doing a great work for Canada in these difficult times. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) knew what the true situation was with regard to what the hon. member for Témiscouata said, and he should have risen in his place and stopped the hon. member for Témiscouata from vilifying Mr. Purvis, the former head of Canadian Industries Limited.

Perhaps in some of their workings this great industry has become monopolistic and it may exert influence which is not always beneficial. If influence has been brought to bear upon this administration or upon any of its servants—I refer now to the high commissioner's office

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

in London—in order that there may be accumulating profits from the use of foreign oils rather than our own products, in order that these profits may go on without let and hindrance during the war time, then someone is going to answer for it. As an example of the influence that is brought to bear, I should like to quote from a requisition issued by the Department of Munitions and Supply for beef, bacon, fresh pork, mutton and shortening. The shortening is requisitioned in one pound prints, the most expensive way in which to buy this product. A large percentage of the cost of putting out one pound prints is taken up in the container itself and the cost of advertising. It was specified that it must be manufactured from pure vegetable oil, that lard will not be accepted for shortening.

An hon. MEMBER: Read it.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): I have read it so often that it is firmly fixed in my mind. The words "lard will not be acceptable" are underlined in the requisition. Since when were we not able to make pies with the use of lard as shortening? Since when were we not able to fry eggs in bacon fat? Since when were we not able to cook French-fried potatoes with the use of dripping and lard and fats natural to this country? Since when were we not able to make doughnuts by frying them in fat produced in Canada? Whence came the influence to have it specified in that way in this requisition for requirements for our troops?

It is still being done. I can tell this house where some of the influence comes from. This is a high-powered organization. They make a large profit out of this product. It costs them four to five cents a pound and they refine it and sell it for two pounds for a quarter. Because of that large spread they are able to put experts into dietitian's establishments. They even exert some control over what our universities shall teach in the way of dietetics in order that more and more of this product may be used. If a man operates a bake shop and is using Canadian fats of any kind for shortening purposes, they will put an expert in free of charge to show him how to use vegetable oil. If a man is using two per cent lard in making bread, they will put in an expert to show him how to use this vegetable oil. They are efficient and in their efficiency they bring influence to bear. If the war were over, I should like to make some research into certain activities of the Department of Agriculture, in order to find out how influence is brought to bear by these interests which I have mentioned. I am not complaining because they are doing a great