

Mr. McCANN: Although the hon. member may have travelled a great deal, perhaps this article from the *Ottawa Journal* of August 24 would be of interest to him:

Left-handed plows may be "strangers" to most of the members of the commons, but in at least one county in the United States they are 1,000 to one over right-handed plows.

Following the recent discussion in the house in which the appearance of a left-handed plow on the new Canadian issue of the eight-cent stamp was questioned, the philatelic division of the Post Office Department received a clipping from Missouri.

Dated O'Fallon, St. Charles County, Missouri, the letter declared that "out of 1,000 plows, not more than one is right-handed."

Mr. GRAYDON: I would say that we are still from Missouri.

Item agreed to.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Administrative service—

693. Departmental administration—further amount required, \$5,640.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I should like to have the indulgence of the committee for about ten minutes; I promise I will not exceed that time. I want to refer to the sugar situation in Canada. On July 9 I made a speech on this matter; what I said at that time I should be quite willing to say again. I would point out to the committee and the country as a whole that all is not well as regards Canada's sugar supply. I urge my fellow Canadians not to be lulled into a false sense of security in respect to sugar. There have been things happening lately which have lulled people into a false sense of security and I urge Canadians to be on their guard.

On August 6 the Acting Minister of Finance made a statement to the house to the effect that conditions had improved in the sugar situation and it was possible to give the people an additional amount of sugar. He said, as reported on page 4346 of *Hansard*:

Although world sugar supplies remain below requirements, the worst appears to be over and a gradual improvement in the future is to be expected. The improvement to date has made it possible for the wartime prices and trade board to make an increase in rations to household consumers. . . .

I would point out to members of the committee that that statement requires to be considered in the light of figures which were issued two days later by the bureau of statistics. The figures of sugar on hand as of July 13 were as follows:

|            | Raw sugar   | Refined sugar |             |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|            | Pounds      | Pounds        | Total       |
| 1945 . . . | 144,806,728 | 94,667,906    | 239,474,634 |
| 1946 . . . | 115,047,793 | 119,467,906   | 234,515,699 |

[Mr. Graydon.]

As of July 13, 1946, we had 4,958,935 fewer pounds of sugar than we had in 1945. That is a serious comment on what the minister said and it is difficult to reconcile those figures with his remarks. What is the situation with respect to the world supply? It is quite as alarming. May I quote from an editorial by Wellington Jeffers, financial editor of the *Globe and Mail*, which appeared on July 18, 1946, as follows:

I mention the world at large because estimates for world output are that in 1946 production will be 7.3 million short tons less than in the average 1935-39 years, and 750,000 tons less than in 1945.

And again:

A million ton increase in the western hemisphere does not make up for the drop in war-torn Europe.

Figures to support Mr. Jeffers' remarks and what I have said are to be found in Lamborn Sugar Market Report, dispatch June 18, 1946, and in Willett and Gray's Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal, dated after August 1. These two publications constitute the finest authority on the American continent, and they establish conclusively what I have said regarding the dangerous shortage which obtains in the world sugar situation. Beet sugar production in Canada is the lowest since 1923; I should like to quote again from what Mr. Jeffers said:

Sugar controllers this year, for beets at least, deserve a dunce's cap for permitting the lowest production since 1923.

The United States has done much to help her producers of beets and beet sugar; Canada, on the other hand has done much to hinder her producers of beets and beet sugar. There should be called immediately a conference of beet sugar producers and refiners. The whole matter should be talked over, and a group of incentives should be decided upon which would stimulate beet sugar production in Canada to the maximum capacity of the present plants; and also which would encourage the establishment of more beet sugar plants in Canada enough to make secure the sugar supply of Canada.

I am utterly amazed at the indifference which prevails in this house and in the Dominion of Canada with respect to the sugar supply. The way in which the sugar administrator in this country has been treating the sugar beet producers is absolutely extraordinary, as contrasted with the way in which such producers are treated in the United States and Great Britain.

Canadians are assuming that their sugar supply is safe. But we could have a dreadful emergency in which we could suffer painfully