

*Agricultural Conditions*

ment for some great work that his market extension division has done for certain fruit and vegetable growers in my district during the last season. The minister referred briefly to a shipment of rhubarb. The fruit and vegetable growers in my district wish me to express their gratitude not only to the minister but to the government for the protection which has been afforded to this industry during the last two years. Just to show the house the work which the market extension division of the Department of Agriculture can do, I would point out that rhubarb is produced in the Fraser river valley a few weeks earlier than in the rest of the dominion, and we were successful this year in marketing our rhubarb not only on the prairie but in eastern Canada. When the first shipment of field rhubarb was due to be shipped to Ontario on April 27, the Department of Agriculture put on a broadcast over the eastern section of the Canadian National Railway System announcing that Canadian field rhubarb had arrived, dilating on its qualities and on the medicinal value of rhubarb, and urging the people to purchase it. The result was that from that one district in the province of British Columbia we have marketed this year close to one hundred cars of that product. This work I think might be enlarged.

I must express disappointment that something in the way of a marketing board has not been brought into existence this year, but the minister has announced that it is the intention of the government to set up a commission. I hope that that commission will be clothed with powers not only to encourage our export trade but to assist some of our industries in reducing the great surpluses that exist today. The Minister of Agriculture told us the other day that owing to a surplus of some fifteen million pounds of butter in Canada the price had dropped from 28 to 17 cents. It is the belief of the dairymen of my district, and I believe throughout the dominion, that if that surplus could be removed the price of butter would advance four or five or six cents immediately. This is a matter that I have no doubt the commission will take into serious consideration, and I hope that they will have powers conferred on them so that they may assist our producers. Another important matter is the distribution of Canadian products within our own country. This is very important. I was hoping that the marketing board would have power to deal with this question, but now that a commission is being appointed I trust that it will be clothed with power to encourage and assist towards the orderly marketing of products

[Mr. Barber.]

within our own country. I am reminded particularly at the present time that large quantities of Alberta butter are coming into the province of British Columbia. We can absorb large quantities in that province because we do not produce sufficient to meet the demands of the domestic market, but the trouble is that many of the creameries in the province of Alberta are small, with no selling agency, and they ship their product to some broker in Vancouver, and he unloads it as soon as possible and cuts the price in order to dispose of it. The result was that butter on the Vancouver market was reduced by five cents a pound in one day. That also applies to eastern Canada as well as to the prairie provinces, and if something could be done to encourage the orderly marketing of our products within our own country it would be a great work. I trust that the commission which is being appointed will be able to do something along that line. I am not going to say anything more with regard to the marketing board. The last speaker (Mr. Speakman) has expressed my views in that regard. All I wish to add is that I know there will be great disappointment in certain branches of agriculture that that board was not set up this session.

Another matter that I wish to take this opportunity of bringing to the attention of the house concerns another branch of agriculture and one that is confined to my district. But even if it is confined to one district in the Dominion of Canada there is no reason why we should not all be interested in it. We have in Canada to-day certain resources limited to certain districts, and we are all interested in their development. I am speaking particularly of the hop-growing industry. Canada is the only hop-growing country in the world that is not producing a surplus. Furthermore, we are producing the finest hops in the world. The Canadian hop stands high on the world's market. I have some evidence here which I wish to produce very briefly. Samples of the Canadian hop have been submitted to the brewers' academies, not only in Great Britain but in the United States, and I should like to quote from a letter from the National Brewers' Academy of New York to whom nine samples were submitted:

Replying to your inquiry of even date, we desire to state to you that British Columbia hops are considered an entirely suitable brewing material for the production of ale, lager and stout, and that in our experience, owing to the pronounced aroma of this type of hops, it may be used in the proportion of fifty to seventy-five per cent in the production of lager beer, whereas for the brewing of ale, stout and