

This matter has rather serious implications for our defence program. I am sure that the members of the government, as well as the members of the house generally, are aware of these serious implications. As I recall it, during world war II one of the notable contributions of Canada to the war effort was the magnificent rate of production maintained in all agricultural products, particularly dairy products.

I would bring my remarks to a conclusion by stating that a healthy dairy industry is essential to the general economic well-being of the country. During recent weeks the minister of agriculture for the province of Manitoba has been taking as his dominant theme in discussions throughout the province the necessity for encouraging mixed farming in Manitoba and in the prairies generally. His conclusion has been exactly the same as the statement I have just made, namely that a healthy dairy industry is necessary, and that encouragement of general farming is necessary for the general economic well-being of the country.

I would emphasize again that, in the deliberations of the agricultural products board, consideration be given to some of the remarks that I have made this afternoon. I realize that the solution to the problem outlined in the resolution submitted by the Brandon council is perhaps a little bit more difficult than they have indicated. However, I think it only right and appropriate at this time that it be brought to the attention of the house for consideration generally, and particularly as discussions continue with reference to the resolution we now have before us.

Mr. Donald B. Blue (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to take part in the debate on the resolution that is now before us, and consequently I had made no preparation. But I feel I would be unfair to the constituency I represent, namely, Bruce, and the people of that constituency, which is the largest producer of butter in the Dominion of Canada, if I did not say a few words. After having heard the statements made in this house by some hon. members I just wonder whether they know on which side of the cow to sit.

Speaking of dairy products, I farmed for 44 years and I was proud of my profession as a farmer. I did not go too far away from it. I manufacture bread, thereby consuming flour grown in western Canada. I think it is unfair to tell me or to tell the people of Bruce that we do not know how to run our business. I am in the auctioneering business as well. I know that it takes only a simple education to understand the two professions that I am in,

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but I do half a million dollars' worth of business a year with the general public, and I say that the farmers are the best people that one can meet.

I received the cards which the previous speaker mentioned. I answered them. If they are willing to accept my solution, very well. There are laws of this land which put an importation tariff on butter. There is a tax on margarine; but I am going a little further than that. I am going to say in the House of Commons what I have said to them. I keep store. I have margarine and I have butter. If I had sufficient butter to replace the margarine on my shelves I would feel sorry for the man who is milking the cow. I do not think it is fair for any of us to make prejudiced statements against the other fellow's profession. This is a free world and we should let everyone choose for himself. I know that beef has put the dairy cow out of her position today. We all know that. There is not an hon. member in the house who does not know that, if he has any intelligence at all. But I can remember the day when the dairyman had his inning against the beef man. I am defending Bruce today, and I want to defend it because I think they are the best people in the land, and Canada is the best country in which to live. I am going along with the people of Bruce. I want them to keep cows because it is vital. The population of Canada is rising, and so is the population of the United States. But the time may come when the quota on cattle going to the United States may be reconsidered. I know that beef cattlemen realize that. But I tell everybody to milk cows, because it is a fundamental practice of the nation, and my constituency will do its part. It is the largest producer of butter in the Dominion of Canada. Thank you.

At 6.15 p.m. the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the resolution introduced this afternoon by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) will make provision for the establishment of an agricultural products board, on a more permanent basis. Certainly we in this group made it abundantly clear in the house more than a year ago that we were in favour of extending the Agricultural Products Act. Consequently we are glad to see that the Minister of Agriculture is now agreeing with us and is now making provision for the establishment of an agricultural products board, on a permanent peacetime basis.