

the population of the United States probably reaches 112,000,000 to 115,000,000 souls; within fifteen or twenty years that population may reach 140,000,000. To-day they are within measurable distance of becoming a food importing nation—indeed, in some respects they are now importing the food stuffs we produce.

Mr. EDWARDS: They have a surplus of everything the farmer has to sell, and we have not.

Mr. CRERAR: They are reaching the point, I say, when they will be a food importing nation. We have also the excellent advantage of our relationship with the British market, which is a great consuming market. Where does the Britisher get the greater part of the food he eats—the meats and the wheat, and the coarse grains that he requires for his live stock? He has to buy them in the outside markets of the world. When he buys from the Argentine Republic he has to haul his purchases twice the distance that he requires to carry them from Canada; if he buys in Australia he has to haul them three times the distance, and if he buys in India the haul is more than double that from this country. Consequently, I say again, Canada as an agricultural country occupies a unique and splendid place in the world to-day. And it does seem to me, Mr. Speaker,—and I have never stated anything with more sincerity than I state this to-night—that it is the part of very great wisdom that we in future direct our energies to the development of our agricultural resources, and in fact to the development of our natural resources of all kinds.

To-day we are supplying a very large percentage of the pulpwood that is consumed in the United States; over ninety per cent of the pulp and paper manufactured in this country is exported to the United States. We have great pulp forests yet in reserve, and I would offer this suggestion in that regard—that I think the Government might well take into consideration the question of reforestation. We have large areas that could well be reforested. These bounties of nature will not last forever, and it is the part of wisdom now to lay the foundation for maintaining the supplies of these resources that are necessary for human happiness and human progress.

Now I come to a point that was mentioned yesterday afternoon by my hon. friend from Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt). He at any rate is honest and frank; there is never any doubt as to where he stands on

[Mr. Crerar.]

any question that he has opinions upon, and, let me say, I have the highest respect for an opponent of that kind. But I do not think that my hon. friend was quite fair in some of his allusions yesterday afternoon. He referred to the Agrarian Movement, and he associated with that the idea of class legislation and class domination. I take issue with my hon. friend in that regard. He has been a Protectionist all his life, he has believed in that principle during the many years it has dominated the fiscal policy of this country, and yet I maintain that there never was perpetrated upon this country a greater instance of class legislation than is to be found in the operation of that principle. What is the purpose of a tariff? It is designed to benefit a particular section of the people, it operates in no other way, and consequently the operation of this protective system in our fiscal policy, which has obtained largely for the last forty years, has conferred upon a special class a privilege that in my judgment is not compatible with a true democracy. And I would point out to my hon. friend from Brantford and to other hon. gentlemen also who believe in a protective tariff, that Protection is nothing more or less than a type of State Socialism. It is State assistance to particular industries, and just as surely as night follows day it will bring this development in its train. If you have a protective tariff you must have your boards of commerce and your regulative bodies that will endeavour to control the thing that you have built up. It was true in Germany, and it was true in the United States, for they were inevitably coming to it if they had not largely modified their fiscal system some seven or eight years ago.

I wish to say this further, Sir, in respect to what my honourable friend terms the Agrarian Movement, that this is not a class movement. It was not a class movement in the constituency of Assiniboia, because in that constituency the towns and villages gave as good support to my honourable friend (Mr. Gould) who represents that constituency in this House as the farmers did. It was not a class doctrine in the county of Victoria and Carleton, N.B., despite the fact that my honourable friend, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Meighen) went to that constituency and warned the electors against the dangers and evils of "occupational politics." But you must test and judge this by the platform that the Agrarians, if you wish to call them by that title, have laid down. I have stated it on public platforms and in this House,