a group, are expected to meet the competition of the lowest priced foreign products. Our fiscal policy should be based on protection for Canadian workers against lower priced goods from other lands. If workers in other industries were asked to produce at prices which would compete with goods from all other countries, many of our largest industrial plants would be put out of business. Workers in other industries are asking and getting higher wages and tariff and other protection, but the dairy farmer is expected to meet foreign competition.

This brings up another interesting point, the question of monopoly. One great company, with ramifications extending all over the world, is dominant in the world's edible oil industry. That company has plants in Canada, and is very much to the fore in the vegetable oil and margarine field. It can bring these oils by ocean-going tankers into the very heart of our manufacturing centres. It can buy them in the cheapest markets where they are produced under conditions we would not tolerate in Canada. At present it can bring quantities of these oils into Canada without having to pay any tariff whatsoever. If the price of United States oils, which are being used so much at present, gets out of line with the oils from empire countries, this firm would be in a position to dominate the Canadian edible oil industry and could dominate the great Canadian dairy industry on which hundreds of thousands of Canadians are dependent. This is one situation to think over when we hear so much talk these days about monopolies.

There are certain questions which come to mind when we give consideration to this question. How much employment does the whole margarine industry give to Canadians? What has become of the promise to use Canadian-produced oils? What effort is being made to interest farmers in growing the necessary plants? When this issue was debated in the Senate one of the great talking points was the establishment of a new industry for Canadian farmers. How is this going to end? What is going to be the ultimate effect on the dairy industry? Are we going to accept the position of an importing country in the world in so far as dairy products are concerned?

According to the brief of the federation of agriculture, recently presented to the cabinet, milk production is down about 8 per cent in the past five years. This amount is something more than would have been exported before it could be assumed that Canada is self-sufficient in dairy production. In the meantime the Canadian population has increased by about one and a half million persons, with the result that Canada, which is now a dairy product importing country, brought in some seven million pounds of cheese, five million pounds of butter, and considerable quantities of milk powder. It does seem a disgrace that Canada should be importing dairy products.

There was a time when the making of cheese for export was a great industry. Now we even import cheese. Some six or eight million pounds of New Zealand cheese was imported in November 1950. This was sold at 34 cents to the processors, or several cents more than our home-made Canadian cheese. Importers claimed that New Zealand cheese was required for processing as a result of government buying policy. Stocks of new Canadian cheese were abnormally low. Cheese was requisitioned in Canada for British export, but we could not fulfil our bargain. It is difficult for Canadian cheese producers to understand why their product was requisitioned at 28 cents and New Zealand cheese was brought in to retail at a higher price. About 70 per cent of all the cheese eaten in Canada is some variety of processed cheese. The processed cheese firms, many of them subsidiaries of large American firms, have obtained a hold on the market in Canada. They buy cheddar cheese at the domestic market price, or in the case of the New Zealand cheese at 34 cents, grind it, heat it, add some color, then sell it in packages for 65 to 70 cents a pound. The sales of processed cheese were high, and it was a case of cutting sales or buying new cheese outside of Canada. Certainly if the export price of cheddar cheese is not better than last year, there will be little for export.

Before the Easter recess we had a debate on the wheat contract and the government saw fit to reimburse the western wheat growers to the extent of $65 million. I point out that other branches of agriculture have also suffered under similar circumstances. It would seem only fair that they also should receive compensation. Ontario and Quebec had millions of pounds of cheese requisitioned at prices below those of the United States at the time. The producer was deprived of his domestic market and the requisitioned price was below the cost of production. The producer had no option but to sell to the government. When discussing the further amount payable to the wheat farmers the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) said in the debate that the wheat farmers had "expectations". Apparently the cheese producers, after producing at a loss, were not considered to have "expectations".

Our cow population is almost half a million less than in 1945 according to the dominion