

tion, and I make this observation now because I did not have an opportunity of doing so a year ago. I am of opinion that a nazi-controlled Europe and a Japanese-controlled Pacific almost make the axis powers self-sufficient. That is a startling statement. Our dream of economic starvation of the axis powers is a dream of yesterday. It does not obtain to the same extent to-day. But with respect to many raw materials it is still possible. The outstanding example of this condition of self-sufficiency is the control that Japan has taken of the Pacific—tin, rubber, oil and vegetable oil.

The house will recall that in 1936, 1937 and 1938 I placed on the record the position this country would be in if we did not produce more and more oils and fats. I pointed out at that time that for every pound of creamery butter produced in Canada we were importing almost as much palm, peanut and other vegetable oils. The figures given were the production by Canada of 250 million pounds of creamery butter, and at the same time we imported a like amount of vegetable oils. I pointed out that if anything ever happened to our vegetable oil supply from the Pacific we would be so short of fats in this country that even butter would have to be rationed. We have seen the rationing of butter. We are now face to face with a problem which I enunciated five, six and seven years ago. Quite true, the problem was approached from another point of view, but one of the outstanding merits of that approach is the fact that it was not economic for this country to be bringing in these materials when it was possible to produce our own fat requirements in this northern clime. Therefore I would trespass on the time of the house long enough to bring this picture up to date, as I see it, as far as butter is concerned. My purpose in doing so is to be constructive, to urge our people to produce more and more of this natural commodity which is so necessary to the life of Canada.

To meet the situation it is necessary to produce more and more butter fat. If we are to support the effort overseas we shall have to restrict further the high per capita consumption of fat at home so that we may have an exportable surplus of butter in the days to come to feed our troops overseas.

For years butter production in Canada has been growing. When I discussed this matter some five years ago we were producing two hundred and fifty million pounds a year. To-day the production is two hundred and eighty-four million pounds of creamery butter and eighty-five million pounds of farm butter. But that growth has not exceeded to any

appreciable extent the increased consumer demand on account of the natural increase in our population and an increase in the demands and requirements of our people. I went to school with some men who are now members of this house. The pupils of that school had beef dripping on their first course for their frozen lunch; on the second course they had corn syrup; on neither course did they have any butter; and substantial men were raised in that day and generation from that fare. About the only time butter found its way to the table was when company came in on a Sunday afternoon prior to going to church. We may have to go back to those conditions.

It is true that at times much is said about surplus, or exportable surplus, but when we come to deal with that surplus we find it usually does not amount to as much as five per cent of the total production. It is practically negligible; we are able to make barely enough butter to supply our own people; and as our tastes become more extravagant with increased incomes we shall not have a surplus here to supply the boys overseas in case they need some of the butter which is being produced here. We must demand of our people greater production. I intend to suggest one or two ways by which this may be done, and done early enough, so that the farmers of Canada can do their planning now. Small and all as this surplus may be, nevertheless it is a depressing factor and one which has been with us long enough to be dealt with on some fair basis, so that its depressive influence may disappear. If we consider that butter production represents more than forty-two per cent of the total utilization of milk in Canada, it is a problem which justifies the most careful and constructive attention which can be given to it. True, in war time the importance of this great agricultural production has been impressed upon the government of the day. Subsidies are being paid, not for the purpose of dealing with surpluses, but to stimulate production. I am in accord with that. But what has been done has not been sufficient and has not taken into account the increased consumer demand which has been apparent at least since the first year of the war. It is true that the bait of subsidies has been thrown out to the cream producer, but these subsidies have been a hit-or-miss proposition and have been paid without due regard to the price relationship to other items of utilization, such as cheese, evaporated milk, and milk for fluid consumption. Furthermore, for the past year at least, the farmer was not told of