

much purchasing power as the cane sugar industry will in providing Canada's sugar supply. These figures I computed from the October 1945 submission to this government by the Canadian Beet Sugar Producers Association, at pages 6 and 7 of their submission. The nine hundred million pounds of cane sugar annually imported into Canada puts not more than \$5,000,000 into Canadian pockets. If this nine hundred million pounds of cane sugar were sugar made in Canada from Canadian grown beets it would put \$45,000,000 into Canadian pockets. I ask any hon. member to tell me which one of these two will provide a better means of aiding the Canadian economy.

Now a word as to the employment provided by the two industries. First we have all the employment which is provided by the various industries which supply the commodities required by the beet sugar industry in manufacturing and processing sugar. We have between eight and nine times as much Canadian labour required to produce one hundred pounds of beet sugar as is required to produce one hundred pounds of cane sugar. For these figures I again draw on the October 1945 submission, at page 6, paragraph 2.

Another important consideration from the point of view of Canadian economy is variety of production. We have as a result of the beet sugar industry practically every kind of meat produced, eggs, canned vegetables, canned fruits; for the canning industry goes hand in hand with the beet sugar industry because the land is prepared well through the raising of beets and is therefore eminently suitable for the raising of all kinds of vegetables for canning; we have dairy products and we have honey. It seems to be just dawning on hon. members on the government side that the money of a country depends upon the goods which the country is producing. Already in this debate we have heard mentioned four or five times the importance of things instead of money. If you want your economy stable, if you want your money stable, make sure that there are plenty of things behind your money. If you want to avoid inflation and rising prices, be sure you have plenty of things, then prices will not rise. Consequently, looking at it from that angle, it is of great importance that we have this variety and richness of production flowing into the Canadian economy as a result of the beet sugar industry. This variety of production can stabilize our money, stabilize our prices, stabilize our trade.

From what I have already said it must be obvious to all hon. members that the beet sugar industry would greatly increase prosperity of agriculture because irrigation farmers

[Mr. Blackmore.]

become stable from having a sure cash crop and through having mixed farming.

The matter of trade and the bearing of the beet sugar industry on our trade is of great importance. A wide variety of misconceptions is deliberately spread abroad across this country concerning trade in respect to the beet sugar industry. We have an example of that in the references to the supposed loss of the maritime fish and potato market by reason of the development of the beet sugar industry. This idea about the loss of that market is a complete fallacy; it always was, and I am more than a little suspicious that the men who first foisted it upon the country knew it was. The more purchasing power you put into the hands of the people, the more goods they can buy from abroad as well as in their own country, and the more goods we can buy from outside our own country, the more goods we shall be able to sell outside. This has been emphasized several times by several speakers in the hearing of all hon. members. Therefore the development of the beet sugar industry certainly should be more conducive to developing trade for Canada than the development of the cane refining industry in Canada, which puts the purchasing power in Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica or some other far-off land.

The second important question of the four which I propose to ask and answer is this: Can the beet sugar industry be expanded to satisfy Canadian needs? All hon. members I believe know that there are successful beet sugar factories in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. I am not going to deal with those provinces but only with my own province of Alberta, with which I am in some measure familiar.

Has Canada enough available land in the province of Alberta to develop a sugar beet industry? This is the picture in Alberta. We have already a sufficient number of irrigated districts in Alberta to provide 508,800 acres of irrigated land through twelve projects already constructed. Now we have the Lethbridge southeast water conservation project, which has been discussed several times in the hearing of hon. members. This project is now being constructed because of the wisdom of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). It will bring under irrigation 345,000 more acres of some of the finest beet-producing land on the face of the earth, and second on the American continent only to California. Now, 30,000 acres of irrigated land will supply a 1,200-ton slicing capacity sugar beet factory such as is found in Raymond and at Picture Butte, in my constituency. A 1,200-ton slicing capacity beet factory will produce one-twentieth of the sugar which Canada requires