

Supply—Agriculture

short of butter in a short time, and we would not have the dairy cattle or the means of producing butter from dairy cattle. My hon. friend probably would not notice that situation so much in Quebec, where I do not think they use much margarine. But the inroad made by margarine on the dairy industry throughout most of Canada is a matter for the profoundest regret throughout this country.

Mr. Pouliot: Margarine is made in Canada with vegetable oils that come from outside Canada?

Mr. Blackmore: That is right.

Mr. Pouliot: Therefore we cannot call margarine a Canadian farm product.

Mr. Blackmore: It is taking the place of a farm product.

Mr. Pouliot: But if my hon. friend and colleague is in favour of the production of dairy goods instead of purchasing vegetable oils from outside, then the submarines would be helpful to Canada because they would destroy the ships that would bring vegetable oils to Canada.

Mr. Blackmore: That is right.

Mr. Pouliot: So they could not complain of enemy submarines.

Mr. Blackmore: But that would not do us much good if we were in a war, because we cannot replace these dairy cows, dairy farms and dairy farmers overnight, nor can we replace them in a year. Hence because of the fact that we are importing these vegetable oils and destroying our dairy industry in large measure we are rendering ourselves simply foolhardily vulnerable, or we are foolhardily rendering ourselves vulnerable; and I cannot do anything about it because the government right here in Ottawa is letting in these vegetable oils without duty and at ridiculously low prices, and letting the margarine industry develop.

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Chairman, in further reference to the question that was raised a little while ago, may I say that I do not mind my hon. friend pointing at me and starting to talk about something I have already heard; but I have not heard this conversation that has been going back and forth across the floor. I think my hon. friend ought to address himself to the Chair.

An hon. Member: You were not missing anything.

Mr. Blackmore: Oh, yes; he is missing a good deal. As a matter of fact, one of the big dangers in our whole Canadian economy and in this parliament is that the people who

come from an area, say, like that from which the hon. member for Temiscouata comes, often find it extremely difficult to visualize conditions on the prairies and in British Columbia, such as those which my friend the hon. member for Okanagan-Revelstoke was discussing this afternoon. In the same way we find it difficult to visualize conditions existing in Quebec and down in Prince Edward Island. By listening to each other we are enabled to get an over-all picture of agriculture throughout Canada. Here is a good chance to get that picture.

As I was saying, the import of vegetable oils from abroad and the manufacture of margarine—something which is unnecessary in Canada and which is damaging to Canada—is rendering us vulnerable to submarine attack. You can imagine how serious it would be if we were short of butter, cream, cheese, milk—

Mr. Pouliot: If my hon. friend will permit me to do so I should like to ask another question.

Mr. Blackmore: Will my hon. friend just speak up so the minister can hear him? I will listen in.

Mr. Pouliot: If boats loaded with vegetable oils are sunk by submarines in war, how could that affect the dairy industry in Canada?

Mr. Blackmore: If you do not have the cows to supply the butter to replace the margarine it would certainly affect us. You just would not have the dairy products. That is easy to see, is it not? If you had only one dairy cow in Canada where you needed three to supply your needs, it would not help you at all if submarines were cutting off your vegetable oils from abroad.

Mr. Harkness: We would have to start milking the Herefords.

Mr. Blackmore: Even that would not solve the problem because most of the Herefords are not milking cattle; the people have not been trained and are not equipped to handle the Herefords. As an over-all picture in Canada I am sure it is easy for the hon. member to see that it is of the first importance to this dominion to maintain a dairy industry capable of supplying all our needs in respect of dairy products, and to keep that dairy industry intact all the time.

Mr. Pouliot: I am in favour of that procedure also.

Mr. Blackmore: So am I.

Mr. Pouliot: My hon. friend knows I am in favour of that.