

that would grow more successfully in Canada—and I believe they are working to that end now—there would be the possibility of establishing in this country another branch of agriculture that would be very much worth while.

I am led to believe that Germany alone imports about one million tons of soya beans. It is one product of which there has never been overproduction in any of the agricultural countries of the world. The densely populated countries of China and Manchuria, where they use a large portion of their own production of soya beans for feed, are those nations that are also exporting the most soya beans. Even in Great Britain the imports annually amount to 200,000 tons. We import something like 2,500 tons. I am quite sure the minister is following only sound business methods in not trying to penalize through the tariff the people who are using soya beans. If you impose a tariff, I doubt whether it would increase the price, because we already have a substantial duty and the price of soya beans is only seventy cents.

I am almost inclined to accept the view that the growers of soya beans are being exploited. Because of the varied use to which soya beans can be put it seems unfortunate that the price received will not pay the cost of production. No farmer can afford to produce these beans at seventy cents per bushel, considering the amount of work involved in raising them. There are certain sections in western and southwestern Ontario where the land is not too good for general farming purposes, but it would be suitable for the raising of soya beans. The soil is quite light and adapted to this particular crop. I was talking last week to one of my constituents in the township of Burford who told me that he had not attempted to harvest his crop of soya beans because the price which he would receive would be less than the cost of production. The beans have to be dried and sent to the factory in the proper condition. The beans may have been a little late in ripening and perhaps it would be possible to obtain a variety which would ripen earlier. I commend the minister for the stand he has taken in this connection as I believe there is a future for the soya bean. I want to make this comment because earlier in the session I spoke a little adversely of the attempts being made to encourage the growing of soya beans.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister had not spoken then.

Mr. WOOD: I commend anything that is being done in this connection on the experimental farms.

Mr. LOCKHART: We have heard much in this house about the overproduction of wheat and the growing of soya beans seems to offer relief from that overproduction. I should like to direct the attention of the minister to a letter which I received from a business man who travels extensively in the northern part of Manchuria. He had received a copy of the comments which I made in this house in the early part of the session in connection with soya beans and he wrote me to state that there were different varieties of soya beans grown in that part of Manchuria where the climate is similar to that in western Canada. He felt that these varieties of soya beans could be grown in western Canada and in the province of Ontario. It seems to me that this is one of the greatest fields of investigation which could be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in an effort to relieve overproduction in connection with other grains.

Mr. DUNNING: I shall be glad to direct the attention of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to the remarks of my hon. friend. I know, as possibly other members of the committee know, that at our experimental farms all across Canada, and especially those in the west, experiments are being made in soya bean production. Seed has been brought from the regions to which he refers, but anything which will help to carry along this work is worth pressing to the limit.

Mr. STEWART: Does the minister not think taking off the duty will be inclined to discourage the growing of soya beans?

Mr. DUNNING: It will not make any difference and we are not taking the duty off.

Mr. STEWART: You took it off under the Canada-United States agreement.

Mr. DUNNING: It never was on.

Mr. STEWART: You bound it to be free for three years.

Mr. BENNETT: There was a duty.

Mr. STEWART: No matter what the experiments are, the government has tied its hands not to put on a duty for three years.

Mr. DUNNING: On the beans, yes.

Mr. STEWART: That does not offer very much in the way of encouragement to undertake production during that time. What is