

however, I might compare the production of wheat and that of butter and cheese. I claim that the dairy industry should be safeguarded before the production of wheat, because the dairy industry can sell its production. Our domestic market consumes 365,000,000 pounds of butter, and we can sell all the cheese we can manufacture. After all, last year we exported only some 100,000,000 pounds of cheese, while we could have exported and sold, I believe, some 150,000,000 or 175,000,000 pounds. So dairying offers the agriculturist a source of revenue because there is an outlet for these products, while on the other hand we are not sure that we can sell our wheat. We cannot rely on another war to increase the price of wheat sufficiently to let the wheat growers get rich quick, and when I use those words I speak with certain knowledge. Some of my relations went out west, in conformity with the get-rich-quick policy, to make a fortune at grain growing—and some of them did it.

Mr. HAYHURST: And they went into the dairying industry.

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): Well, those who are interested in the dairying industry have to work long hours for twelve months of the year to produce butter and milk, and they have not been able to take trips to the sunny south.

Mr. TUCKER: The suggestion is made that we can ship almost unlimited quantities of cheese. If we attempted to force on European markets such an increased quantity of cheese, would not such action depress the price almost to ruinous depths?

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): I can answer the hon. member for Rosthern by saying that we have shipped up to 200,000,000 pounds of cheese in the past, and it has not affected the markets.

Mr. TUCKER: Other countries have come in and taken that market. If we tried to take it away from them, would we not, in the competition, force the price down?

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): We would hope that we could achieve the same as we have in the past. At this time it is difficult to say that there is a heavy demand on the world market for wheat.

Mr. SENN: And our cheese is at a premium, too.

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): Yes, our cheese is at a premium, and necessarily we will have to keep the quality at such a high standard that it will continue at a premium.

[Mr. E. O. Bertrand.]

Mr. TUCKER: Does my hon. friend suggest that the people of England would eat more cheese than they are eating to-day if we could sell twice as much of it?

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): I know the hon. member for Rosthern wants to be reasonable. When we have sold up to 200,000,000 pounds of cheese in the past, and when our cheese is selling at a premium, surely there is a possibility of regaining that market on a competitive basis. It would not be necessary to create a world surplus, as we have with respect to wheat.

Mr. TUCKER: Does not the hon. member think that if we tried to take the market away from other people they would reduce their price, so as to hold it?

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): Well, that is a technical point upon which I shall not embark. Nevertheless what I have said this afternoon must not be interpreted to mean that we are not going to support legislation which will favour the wheat growers. On the contrary, we are surely going to support that legislation. In the past we have been glad to do it, but we should not like hon. members to go back to western Canada with the idea that they are the only ones who have problems to face, and that they are the only ones who are producing under difficult circumstances and at less than the cost of production.

Mr. HAYHURST: We fully realize that.

Mr. BERTRAND (Prescott): I am sure the hon. member does. I am pleased to see that at least one hon. member realizes our difficulties in the east. I say that because very often when we speak of problems of agriculture in the east we are met with talk about big bankers on certain streets in our large cities. Our people are not high protectionists—far from it. They are absolutely in favour of freer trade, and they want the prices of their necessities to be as low as possible. That condition must exist because they have to sell on the open market. Our problems in agriculture in the east are the same as are met with in the west. For these reasons I say there should not be the feeling that all the people in the east are wealthy and that therefore they must do something to help out the people in the west.

The dairying industry is the most important industry in Canada. It has been operating under very difficult circumstances, because there has not been sufficient control. Last year butter production flooded our market, and that flooding has proceeded to such an extent that this year's production will be in