

Agricultural Products Board

of doing something in this measure to provide for the advance of at least 75 per cent of the initial price on farm-stored grain. The Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has informed us at various times in the recent past that the government was considering this problem, that it had not closed the door to action, that it had not made a final decision. I ask the Minister of Agriculture to see that the decision is made now to advance 75 per cent of the initial price on farm-stored grain, the money to be advanced by the government through an organization similar to the one now being established.

We in this group are glad to see the agricultural products board placed on a permanent basis, but once again we plead with the minister and the government to place in the legislation a parity formula which will guarantee to the farmer his costs of production and a reasonable standard of living in keeping with our Canadian way of life.

Mr. A. Earl Catherwood (Haldimand): I just want to say a brief word on this resolution, Mr. Speaker. Your Honour has been lenient in giving the hon. members considerable latitude in the discussion of these agricultural matters. However, as the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright) has pointed out, this is the only opportunity that we have of bringing some of these agricultural problems to the attention of the minister and the house. The hon. member for Brant-Wentworth (Mr. Charlton) has placed the position of the dairy farmer and the dairy industry clearly before the house. In conjunction with that, I should like to put on the record the wording of one of these cards which so many of us have received, because I believe it is important. It reads:

Dear Sir:

As a dairy farmer I am taking this opportunity to protest against the unfair competition created in the dairy industry by the importation of low-priced vegetable oils. My investment in dairy livestock, buildings and equipment is tremendous and is increasing every year. The condition created by the importation and rapidly expanding uses of low-priced vegetable oils in imitation dairy products is endangering my investment. I urgently request the government of Canada to take immediate action to give the Canadian dairy industry adequate and effective protection against the importation of low-priced vegetable oils which is undermining the security, stability and future of my farm business.

I think that clearly and effectively expresses the position of the dairy farmer. I am entirely in accord with the wording of that card.

I should like also to read a quotation from the *Globe and Mail* of November 12 concerning the food and agriculture organization meeting which is to be held in Rome. I feel that some of our urban friends do not realize the seriousness of the food situation,

so it is up to the farmer members of the house to bring these matters to the attention of the people. I am very happy to learn that the minister and a delegation from his department will attend this food and agriculture organization meeting in Rome. The article reads:

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN reported today that three-fifths of the world has insufficient nutrition and food supplies per person have dropped 4 per cent below pre-war level.

This summary of world food situation was placed before the 18-nation guiding council of FAO at its opening session. The council put the report onto the agenda of the sixth world conference of the 66 members here for November 19 to December 7. The food report said:

"Aggregate production of principal food crops in all countries was 9 per cent above pre-war. However, since 1936 the world population has increased by 13 per cent. Therefore supplies per capita in 1950-51 were still 4 per cent below pre-war levels which were themselves insufficient.

Nutritional levels were still very far from satisfactory in vast regions of the world, such as the far east, near east and Africa, containing three-fifths of the world's peoples . . .

While total food output in 1951-52 is expected to expand, the prospect for supplies in many deficit areas shows no improvement."

So, that is the world situation. I feel that everything that can be done for the promotion and advancement of agriculture should receive our hearty support. I am not going to oppose the resolution at this stage. I welcome the opportunity of seeing what the minister is presenting to us in the bill which will follow this resolution. I do hope it will implement some of the recommendations the dairy farmers have made on these cards.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

Mr. Charlton: How many pounds of butter have been imported into the country this last year?

Mr. Gardiner: Up to the present the imports are approximately 7 million pounds imported by the board with which we are now dealing, and another 3 million or 4 million pounds imported by private concerns.

Mr. Charlton: Is the minister still permitting these private firms to import butter?

Mr. Gardiner: No; there has been no butter imported by private firms since the government order was put out on August 4. The butter which private concerns were allowed to import was purchased before the government order was issued. The order stated no butter would be allowed entry unless we were notified before August 15 that it had been purchased before August 1, 1951.

Mr. Wright: Has the minister any figures to show what this butter imported by the private trade cost? Will he also answer the