

Supply—Agriculture

has laid off 890 men in one day, that is a matter to which every person in the Dominion of Canada has to give attention. He says he has to lay off more unless he can sell the machinery.

Ordinarily those big machine companies have their fingers on the needs of the public. They know how many machines will be bought on an average, say, in Saskatchewan or in Alberta. They have records going back 20 or 30 years, and they know how many machines the people will buy if they can buy. They will gauge their production according to the needs and the law of averages. If the needs are not matched with money, then of course they are in difficulty right away.

Mr. Pouliot: My hon. friend knows that the manufacturers of farm implements are never satisfied.

Mr. Blackmore: Nobody is ever satisfied. My hon. friend is never satisfied; neither am I.

Mr. Pouliot: I am, when he answers my question so well.

Mr. Blackmore: I am delighted; and I am happy when you ask questions. So what we have to do is keep the whole economy of Canada so that nobody is satisfied. That is the way to develop and reach the magnificent heights to which a nation with our resources ought to be able to attain.

Mr. Pouliot: But the farmers who use the tractors are satisfied when they are good.

Mr. Blackmore: But when the tractor is not good the farmer wants a new one, does he not? All my experience with tractors indicates that a tractor is worn out in about 10 years.

I was discussing the dangers we face. The fifth danger is the danger from a hungry world. We must not get the idea that we can remain undisturbed in possession of a wide area of the finest food-producing country on earth when there are billions of people unable to obtain the needs of life. We must not take our eyes off that situation for a moment.

The sixth danger is the danger of scarcity in case of war. I do not need to say it over again, yet there are people who have not noticed how serious the situation is today. The world's need for food in the summer of 1954 was as follows. The world population was about two and a half billion people. Only one-third of those people were adequately fed. Now, think; two-thirds of two and a half billion people are inadequately fed. They are not able to get the meat, the eggs, the

milk, they need—just ordinary food that is so common here—the wheat, the rice—all manner of food—while the danger with us is that we are going to suppress our production.

When we produce freely of wheat, if our farmers find they are in danger of losing money on the wheat there will be a tendency for them to restrict their production, thereby putting Canada in the position that she will not be able to supply the food which nature intended she should be able to supply for a hungry world, thereby mismanaging the heritage that God has given her and inviting trouble. It is just as serious as that. Two-thirds of 2,500 million people—that will be 1,600 million people—are underfed while the United States, for example, has the tremendous surpluses to which I am going to refer in a few moments. Surely that picture must cause any thoughtful person in Canada great concern.

Here is another thing. It is estimated that the Russians—we are discussing the danger of being short of food in time of war—now have 300 submarines. The Germans had only 60 submarines at the beginning of world war II, and every hon. member in this house knows the difficulty the Germans caused us in world war II with submarines. If Russia has 300 of them to start with, you can see that it probably will not be wise for us to be importing many goods from outside this nation. If we put ourselves into a position in which it becomes necessary to import such goods, we are simply not wise stewards. We are improvident in our generation.

Mr. Pouliot: May I ask a question of my hon. friend?

Mr. Blackmore: Yes, if the hon. member will shout so all these people can hear him.

Mr. Pouliot: From the point of view of production of farm goods or farm products, is not Canada self-supporting now? If so, what have we to fear from Russian or other submarines that could destroy ocean shipments? They could not prevent the Canadian people from being fed from the products of Canadian land.

Mr. Blackmore: That is a very fine, interesting question. I shall give just two items. Twenty years ago we had dairy cows, dairy farms, dairy farmers and dairy equipment with which to produce all the butter we needed. What has taken the place of a large part of our butter now? Margarine. Where do we get the oils from which we make margarine? From far-off places we get vegetable oils of many different kinds. This means that if war should strike we would be

[Mr. Blackmore.]