

*Supply—Agriculture*

I should like to know to what extent the minister and his department have canvassed this aspect of our production. The next question would be the matter of economic guidance. It may be found that it would not be economical to have one province produce a certain kind of product when that product perhaps could be produced much more economically in some other province. If there were some guidance given through the district representative of the Department of Agriculture, under the direction of the provincial government, I believe we could use this great asset called Canada to far better advantage than we are now using it.

The next important matter is that of protecting home producers. The things that have been said by certain members since this session began concerning what has been happening in respect of potatoes indicates we are still very far from attaining anything like the ideal with regard to protecting our potato producers, particularly those in British Columbia and the maritime provinces. I think that, in so far as such measures are possible, they ought to be taken to avoid disappointment and losses of that kind.

I turn from this aspect of the picture to that of fertilizer. I should like the minister to be ready to tell us when the time comes what progress has been made by his science organization in the perfecting of fertilizers, ones for the replacement of each and every one of the different kinds of soil nutrients; how successful they are, and so on.

Then, I would like to have him tell us what measures have been taken in an orderly sort of way by his department to have factories established for the production of such fertilizer; whether there is any understanding between the government and those engaged in such manufacture to see to it that the manufacture and the marketing of fertilizer are accomplished in the most economical fashion, so that those who need the fertilizer to restore the fertility of their soil will be able to obtain it at the most economical price.

Then I would like to have him tell us just what are the costs of the various kinds of fertilizers in the various provinces of Canada.

I pass now from that question to marketing abroad particularly. I wonder first of all how co-operation is effected between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Commerce with respect to marketing abroad. Is there an understanding, is there co-operation between those two departments, or does each one of them more or less carry on in an independent way by itself? I think we ought to know about this. I should like to know just what progress has been

made with respect to the FAO and the creation of a world food bank, or food organization.

I should like to know what the holdups have been. As I have gathered from the press, the Minister of Agriculture has been to a very large percentage of the meetings of FAO and of international distribution of food. I am sure the members of the committee and the people of the country would like to know what has been done about establishing an international food bank, and what has been the hurdle in the way of accomplishing the setting up of such a food bank. What is the matter? Is it lack of money? Certainly it is not lack of food. If it is lack of money, why was that hurdle not foreseen when the United Nations and all the people who are behind the United Nations and other international organizations were doing so much talking about setting up a food bank? Why did they not foresee this difficulty and make some provision for solving the problem? If they did make some provision, what was their provision, and how comes it about that today, ten years after the enthusiastic talk about international distribution, we are apparently just as far from it as we ever were in the history of the world?

I think the minister will tell us that the difficulty is a financial one. We in Canada do not feel that we can give our wheat, our oats, our barley, our rye, our sugar and all the other things that we can produce. We cannot distribute those to an international food bank until we can get money from the food bank to pay for those commodities. Well, where is the food bank going to get the money with which to pay it?

**Mr. Studer:** From social credit.

**Mr. Blackmore:** Social credit is right. You said something that is correct, but I have not noticed the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek advocating social credit.

**Mr. Studer:** Send your missionaries over there.

**Mr. Blackmore:** What we want to know is whether or not there is any financial provision in the minds of the Canadian leaders, or of the leaders of any of the other free nations, whether there is any idea in their minds as to how this problem can be solved. If there is not, and they are all agreed that it is impossible to set up an international food bank, then let us stop talking about it and settle down to the idea that we simply must live to ourselves, and the hundreds of millions of luckless people who happen to be living in areas in which they are unable to produce the things that they want, or that the United States wants, or that any one of the free