

the amendment to the amendment of Mr. MacInnis.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, sugar, like rubber or gasoline, is an important munition of war and an almost indispensable requirement of peace. Whoever wittingly jeopardizes his country's sugar supply line is guilty of dereliction of duty. Whoever unwittingly jeopardizes his country's sugar supply line might be guilty of culpable ignorance. Whoever, having essential facts pertaining to his country's sugar supply line, fails to communicate them to those in responsible positions, could be guilty of gross dereliction of duty.

There have come into my possession certain vital facts pertaining to Canada's sugar supply line. It therefore becomes my duty to-day to discuss in the house the beet sugar industry in Canada. It may be questioned whether this matter directly pertains to the budget. I think upon mature consideration every hon. member will acknowledge that sugar supply in Canada does have a vital bearing upon the budget, upon price control, upon the value of money, upon the amount of money we can have in circulation, and upon many other things pertaining to the budget of any country, particularly of Canada.

Canada could be one of the sugar bowls of the united nations. Taken ten years ago, Canada could have been made an asset in the world sugar situation, not only during the war but also during the dangerous post-war days. Canada was made a liability in respect of the world sugar situation, a poor relation whose needs had to be considered a first charge on the sugar resources of the hard pressed united nations. With reference to sugar, Canada had to be carried through several of the most exacting war years, and now, with untold millions starving, Canada still must be cared for from the perilously depleted sugar stockpiles of the world, cared for with sugar that could help to save millions of lives. It is a sorry picture, and one far from gratifying to Canada's national pride.

In order to justify what I have said it will be necessary for me to deal briefly with four questions which it is my purpose to ask. The first of these is: Can the beet sugar industry in Canada be economically sound—first, for the beet producers; second, for the consumers of Canada; third, for Canadian agriculture and, fourth, for the Canadian economy as a whole? With respect to the producers of beets in Canada I believe there is an irrefutable answer to the question which is found in two sets of facts. The first one of these is a statement drawn from the submission of the

Alberta cooperative beet growers' association to the Rowell-Sirois commission in 1937; I quote from page 2 of that submission. This statement of fact will show quite clearly to what extent the beet sugar industry in southern Alberta was able to cope with the situation surrounding it and come out victorious. The statement follows:

To indicate the value of this industry to the agriculture of our district, the community in general and the Dominion of Canada, we submit the following figures relating to the 1937 beet crop:

235,481 tons of beets were produced from 19,829 acres of irrigated land—an average of 11.88 tons per acre.

75,603,700 pounds of sugar were manufactured. 3,813 pounds was the per acre yield of refined sugar.

\$3,040,000 worth of sugar was manufactured. \$155 was the total gross return per acre.

\$77.50 was the gross return to the manufacturer.

\$77.50 was the gross return per acre to the farmer.

The farmers' costs approximated \$60 per acre which includes \$25 per acre paid for hand labour by the farmer. These figures were given in a speech made by T. George Wood, manager, Canadian Sugar Factories Limited, at Lethbridge, Wednesday, March 23, 1938. We believe that this land is producing more food value per acre than any other land in the dominion.

I think to hon. members that must indicate clearly that the beet sugar industry is not a poor relation. It is not an industry that needs any particular help other than plain ordinary commonsense good management from any government in Canada, which kind of management I submit it has not thus far received at the hands of the present Liberal government.

Another set of figures which has an important bearing on the matter gives the price to the refiner of sugar on the Montreal market. These prices were as follows:

	Cents
1930	4.754
1931	4.552
1932	4.378
1933	4.323
1934	3.875
1935	3.832
1936	3.626
1937	4.006
1938	3.895
1939	4.109
1940	4.754

I received these figures from a high official who, I have reason to believe, knew they were correct. If anyone thinks that they are not correct let him quote the accurate figures and prove that they are incorrect. I received those figures confidentially. The reason I mention them is to show hon. members that the beet sugar industry was competing in a market in which the price of sugar was astonishingly low. Hardly one of those