

stance from which can be produced so many derivatives. I had hoped that that might have had the effect of bringing about the development of the industry to some extent in Canada. The area within which it can be successfully carried on is limited, because of climatic conditions, but of its value there never has been the slightest question. The action of putting it on the free list simply means that we shall not become producers. About ten thousand acres were sown in soya beans in this country.

Mr. DUNNING: And half of that for forage.

Mr. BENNETT: Part of that for ensilage. It is said that it makes excellent food to be placed in silos and is well suited for feeding requirements of milking cows.

Mr. DUNNING: It is rich in proteins.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. I do not think the government is fair to the Canadian people when it puts soya beans on the free list at a time when an effort is being made successfully to cultivate them. It is clear that they could be cultivated in the whole of the Niagara peninsula. In a small way cultivation is being carried on in the Chatham area, but there has never been that control so essential to success. It would seem quite clear from reports I have seen that soya beans could be produced successfully in the Niagara peninsula. This is equally true of some parts of Quebec—

Mr. DUNNING: Quebec, do you say?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, so I am told. Before we left office representations were made to us that the people interested were satisfied that soya beans could be produced in those sections, and they were going to do something about it.

Mr. DUNNING: As a food, possibly, but not as a berry.

Mr. BENNETT: Does the minister say that the ripening of the bean would not be possible?

Mr. DUNNING: I think not.

Mr. BENNETT: I am not expressing an opinion on the point. I recall that twenty-five or thirty years ago the statement was made that corn could not be grown in North Dakota, but I have seen the corn belt move steadily northward. The seed has been improved, and the corn has been acclimatized to the territory in question. I have no doubt that soya beans could be grown successfully in the Niagara peninsula of Canada. From

the evidence presented to me, that was my conclusion. So far the production has not had an opportunity to pass the experimental stage, but once a grain is found to grow in this northern climate, whether it be wheat or any other agricultural product, usually it is of a high quality. I had hoped we would find an opportunity to replace unsuccessful and unprofitable products with one so widely used, and one which has so many possibilities. However, placing soya beans on the free list will end any advantage that may be gained, and will give a corresponding advantage to our friends to the south.

Mr. DUNNING: Like my right hon. friend, I am more or less a worshipper at the shrine of the soya bean. I regard it as the most remarkable product of the field, and in that statement I do not believe I am going too far. I would point out, however, that the tremendous range of commodities which can be manufactured from the soya bean, contrasted with the very small development of the growing of the mature bean in this country, causes us to weigh the advantage of the possibility of some day growing enough soya beans with the other advantage of making a commodity available to the Canadian people, not only for stock food, but for the hundred or more uses to which the soya bean can be put, in order that Canada may have such advantages as may arise from the use of the byproducts. After all the years in which experimentation has taken place, only ten thousand acres were grown in Canada last year.

Mr. BENNETT: It is only a few years, you know.

Mr. DUNNING: I remember it at least twenty years ago.

Mr. BENNETT: It was only talked about twenty years ago.

Mr. DUNNING: We experimented with it on our experimental farms twenty years ago, right here at the experimental farm at Ottawa.

Mr. BENNETT: In 1916.

Mr. DUNNING: My right hon. friend may remember that the great war brought the soya bean into world prominence about 1916, and in Canada many of its derivatives were developed as a result of intensive research work done in connection with war materials.

Mr. BENNETT: Undoubtedly that is so.

Mr. DUNNING: Still, in spite of the opportunity and the value of the product we were able to get up to only 10,000 acres in the whole of Canada last year, 5,000 acres of