

*Supply—Agriculture*

I should now like to give just a little bit of attention to each of those four general topics I have mentioned. We need to know what the minister is doing in respect of storage facilities. I have been greatly interested in the wheat problem as I believe have all members of the house. I have held that, in order to deal adequately with the wheat problem in a long-range manner, we ought to have storage on the farm so that the government could advance payments on grain stored on the farm. That storage ought to be such that the government could approve it. I should like it very much if the minister, not particularly now but when the time comes, will give the house a statement concerning the discoveries which his department has made in respect of storage facilities. We would like to know what is the best kind of storage facilities to put on the farm. Is it the quonset bin or what kind is it? What has the minister's department learned? What is it prepared to recommend? What would be the cost of erecting farm storage facilities capable of storing say 5,000 bushels of wheat?

Then, what has been done in respect of storing other kinds of food? Has the minister's department given consideration to the possibility of storing honey, for example, on the farm? Has the department considered storing dried beans, peas, corn and the like? If it has given attention to these things, what have been the findings? I find myself somewhat at a loss to appreciate the fact that we talk so glibly about the possibility of nuclear war; we spend a lot of time and money devising how to defend ourselves in a civic way, and yet we have given no public indication that we have any kind of plan for the important matter of having some food stored so that in case of a nuclear war there would be food available for those of us who happened to survive. That is why I mentioned storing such things as honey, sugar, beans, peas, corn and other things that could be stored.

I should like to know to what extent we have progressed in the dehydration of food, the dehydration of milk, eggs and various other kinds of food to make them suitable for storage in that form. I should like to know what progress has been made so that we might possibly devise some sort of policy in this respect. Now, the next aspect of the storage question is, have we planned any kind of overall storage program? If not, then I must say that certainly the government is failing to meet the responsibilities which the situation forces upon any government in any democratic country in the world today.

I turn now to the matter of production. We have a commission which is studying the

matter of the potential of Canada's resources. I wonder if the government has had a survey made of the whole of Canada to determine the productive capacity of the country, and where that capacity is particularly located? By way of illustrating what I have in mind, I might point out that in my particular area from High River south to the border of Alberta, we can produce more sugar from beets than could be used by the whole of Canada every year. We now have three splendid sugar factories in operation, but we have a tremendous potential for the production of sugar beets. Probably there are other areas in Canada, since I have mentioned sugar, in which sugar could be produced. Has the Department of Agriculture gone over the ground, so to speak, to find out how much sugar we can produce in Canada in case we found we needed to produce sugar?

Now, having learned the capacity we have, what can be said concerning the actual production in Canada? Of course, that is very well known. I wonder if the information has all been brought together so it can be read in a comprehensive detailed report? I wonder whether or not the federal government, working in co-operation with the provincial governments, takes pains to plan the production of Canada in a general way? If I might illustrate, I would say it would help very much if we in Alberta knew about how many hogs it would be in the best interests of Canada for us to produce; how much sugar; how many potatoes, and probably how much of every one of the major agricultural products. If we knew fairly well how much would likely be expected of us, and each province knew this, then we would have a target before us to aim at, namely the production of that amount of goods. I believe it would save us from a good many costly experiences which arise because of our producers going at the problem in a haphazard fashion.

I am told that in one of the constituencies in Ontario they produced a very fine crop of Bartlett pears, grapes and an equally fine crop of peaches last year. When the time came to harvest those commodities it was found that those fruits could not be sold. I am told that they heaped up the peaches in piles and paid men to stand and watch those peaches spoil. People were forbidden to eat one of the peaches. The same sort of thing happened to the pears and the grapes. It seems to me that there was a colossal waste there of the agricultural potential of that particular area in Ontario. I feel we could avoid a great deal of that kind of waste if we planned more carefully, both the dominion and the provinces.