

say something later. Of this seed, some 400 tons got as far as Montreal, where it was put into the British war stores. Owing to the fact that it could not come forward in time, and that when it did come forward Canadian seed had already preceded it to the old country, and as therefore the need of it was not so great in the old country, it was held in Canada, as well as for the reason that transportation for it could not be procured. Now, the British Government has sent out to Canada—I would like the House to pay careful attention to this, for I think it is a matter of vital importance that must be protected—Col. Wayland, of Winnipeg, who represents a Winnipeg firm, to arrange for the distribution of this seed amongst our farmers, not for fibre, because the straw and fibre goes to the farmer, but for the purpose of reproducing seed which they are going to grow in Ireland and Great Britain next year for fibre. I do not know what this seed is; I do not know whether the Government knows what it is; I do not know how good and substantial it may be for fibre. But these are the terms on which it is being peddled out to the farmer to grow this year in Canada. Col. Wayland comes here under the authority of the Home Government, and he has a department at work in Toronto under the direction of Col. Pratt, who has put double headline columns in the papers advertising the distribution of this flaxseed. If the farmers of Canada grow this flax this year, they get the seed free; the only condition is that from the crop grown they shall return bushel for bushel advanced them for seeding; any crop over this they are guaranteed a market for at a fair price of \$4.50 a bushel. That seed is being grown in the province of Ontario and in western Canada. I do not know, but I think it is being grown practically wherever farmers will take it and grow it. I submit to the minister most respectfully, that wherever that seed goes it should be carefully earmarked. Now that we have established the reputation in Ireland for producing a seed from which a fibre of the highest quality can be produced, and which commands the price of \$10 a bushel in the home market, there is an opening for an immense amount of injury to ourselves and to the grower at home if these seeds I have referred to become mixed with our own, which can quite easily be done unless they are carefully marked.

I do not pretend to suggest how the interests of Canada will be protected, but it might be in this way. If a farmer should grow seed from Canadian flax seed which has been demonstrated to be sound and good for fibre, and for which the British Govern-

ment is prepared to pay ten dollars a bushel, that seed should be kept separate from any other seed that is grown, and used as seed for next year, because, if our production increases in the same ratio as during the past two years, we shall likely have a hundred thousand bushels of fibre seed for export instead of forty or fifty thousand. There is, however, the possibility of this other seed going to Ireland as Canadian fibre seed and, grown there, being found to be absolutely unfit for fibre. In that case, the reputation which we have built up over these years is going to be seriously damned. We must guard our interests in that respect. I do not think it is necessary to point out the difficulties that present themselves any further than to suggest to the minister and the department that this matter should be very carefully watched.

I want to tell my hon. friends from Quebec that, on my visit to the Experimental Farm the other day, while I had always been under the impression that the farmers of Ontario had the reputation of growing the best fibre on the continent of America, I was told by the fibre expert at the Experimental Farm and also by Professor Grisdale that the best fibre produced under experimental conditions in Canada last year was that grown in Gaspé, Quebec.

Mr. LEMIEUX: We are far ahead.

Mr. GLASS: I was also told that in Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, a quantity of flax not second to that grown in Quebec, was produced.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The old Acadians—the same thing.

Mr. GLASS: We grow a large quantity of fibre in Ontario. I do not know what success my hon. friends would have if they put in a large crop. I can appreciate how a few acres properly tilled and cultivated might produce much better results than a large area of several thousand acres. We, however, envy the people of Quebec the reputation they have made, and they can be close competitors with us in developing this industry which in the future, will have great bearing upon the economic conditions of our country.

In many of the provinces of Canada it has been demonstrated that we can produce fibre of excellent quality. That is true of the lower provinces, of Ontario, and of British Columbia. I am not prepared to say just how far the western provinces produce a high-grade fibre, but even in those provinces very great improvement could be made if an honest effort were made