

*War Appropriation—Agriculture*

States was, in round figures, 181,000 head for the week ending May 6 last: for the previous week, 179,000; and for the same week last year, 150,000. That is, 31,000 more head of cattle were slaughtered at these points this year than in the same week of the year previous. Then calves; 83,000 were inspected for the week ending May 6 last; '87,000 for the week previous; 55,000 for the same week a year ago; hogs; 1,223,000 for the week ending May 6 last; 1,170,000 for the previous week; and 964,000 for the same week a year ago.

When one considers those figures, one can only come to the conclusion that the situation is much the same in the United States as it is here. In other words, the farmers of the United States have responded to the call for greater production of food products just as the farmers in this country have done, with the result that slaughtering places in the United States are glutted with live stock, just the same as they are on this side of the line. That is why recently the United States followed the lead we gave a few weeks earlier and did away with rationing of meat except steaks and high qualities of beef. Their experience has been similar to ours. That is the chief reason why it has been found difficult, if not impossible, to take advantage of the United States market, because it would have put our friends across the line into difficulties even greater than those they are now experiencing, and it would have compelled them probably to take action which we would much prefer to take ourselves under all the circumstances which existed.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Would the minister also give the slaughtering and storage capacity figures in the United States and Canada in 1939 and 1940.

Mr. GARDINER: I have not those figures, but they can be had in due course. I have the slaughterings in Canada. For the week ending May 6 last there were 194,000; for the week ending April 29, 196,000; for the week ending May 8, 1943, 140,000. We have a record of the slaughterings at all the plants across Canada, and the figures I have just given are the record of the killings in Canada at inspected plants, just as the figures I previously gave were a record of the killings at thirty-two different centres in the United States. When you take that fact into consideration you will see that the increase on the United States side of the line is just about in line with the increase on our own side.

At exporting plants, which are the plants we have under consideration in dealing with our exports of bacon and ham to Britain,

[Mr. Gardiner.]

for the week ending May 6 last the slaughterings were 182,000; for the week ending April 29, 187,000, and for the week ending May 8, 1943, 130,000. So that it will be seen from those figures that conditions are much the same on both sides of the line.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: How many of these places are unable to take the supply of stock which comes in?

Mr. GARDINER: I will deal with that later. I have given the figures with regard to slaughterings to clear up just one point.

The discussions this afternoon were opened by the hon. member for Haldimand who, apart from the introduction to his remarks, gave us, I think, a clear indication of the general position. But in his opening remarks he dwelt at considerable length on statements that have been made previously in the house by himself and by others. In that regard I wish to call to mind the statements which were made by the hon. member for Haldimand himself, by the hon. member for Yorkton, who has just taken his seat, and by the hon. member for Melfort and others in the house during the first three or four years of the war. During that period of time the challenge which was hurled across the floor to the government, and particularly to myself as Minister of Agriculture, was to the effect that the farmers in this country were never going to be able to meet the demands that would be made upon them for food production to supply the necessities of war because we were not giving leadership to the farmers. That was the claim made during all that period of time. I was pleased, therefore, to be able to sit here and listen this afternoon to the same hon. members telling us that the real difficulty now is that we have produced so much food that we have not the plant capacity in Canada to have it processed.

Mr. SENN: I did not make that statement.

Mr. GARDINER: My hon. friend did not make that statement in so many words, but the hon. member who just took his seat did, and others who have spoken previously have suggested it. It pretty well indicates that someone was giving some leadership after all. I am not particularly worried about who gave the leadership. The fact is that the farmers have done what we suggested ought to be done. I believe that the farmers themselves have provided a great part of the leadership. The direction was indicated by the department and by myself, and in following that direction the farmers have done what we desired to have them do and what the British people desired they should do, namely, provide greater quantities of the different types of