

Mr. SPEAKMAN: There is one point I forgot to mention in connection with the export price, and it is really a very important point. As those who are at all familiar with the industry well know, a small exportable surplus hanging over the market and with no adequate facilities arranged for its sale, has a very deleterious effect upon the domestic price. Last year, for example, for about two months centreing around August and September, the average price of hogs in Canada fell from eight to four cents a pound. No new factor had been introduced during that time except this, that our production had slightly increased and that in consequence there had come on the market five per cent of an exportable surplus. The advantage of being able to export such a surplus is not merely in the price which you may receive for that exportable surplus itself, but there is the greater advantage of ridding the domestic market of that quantity in excess of domestic requirements. It does seem to me that to have even an open market in which we can get rid of that exportable surplus, even though the price may not be very attractive, has a very beneficial and stabilizing effect upon the prices received for the far greater number of animals sold in Canada itself. That is one point which we must keep in mind when we are considering the export of such commodities as hog products and other products of that type, when for the present at least and during recent years the number we export is but a very small percentage of our total sales.

Mr. SANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I noticed in the press this morning that the Hon. Howard Ferguson, Canadian High Commissioner in London, had given a statement to the press—I think on Saturday—in which he prophesied that, owing to article 6 of this treaty, the hog industry in the Dominion of Canada would make every Canadian farmer rich within the next year or two. I would like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if it is possible that the High Commissioner has some information about this matter that the minister has not got. No answer.

Mr. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, that sort of tactics is not fair. My hon. friend knows very well that as long as he is on his feet I am not privileged to get up. He is not going to get away with that sort of thing.

Mr. SANDERSON: I am sitting down.

Mr. STEVENS: I was waiting until my hon. friend followed the ordinary course in debate and sat down to permit me to rise.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

There is an answer and a very definite answer. In the first place it would be an extraordinary thing if Hon. Howard Ferguson did not have more up-to-date information than I have about what is happening in England; there is no doubt in the world that he has, because he is a very live individual and is very closely in touch with what is going on. It might be of interest to the committee for me to give the substance of a cablegram that we have received from our own officers in London. It is to the effect that the British government has already taken action to reduce the imports of bacon from continental countries by twenty per cent, effective midnight November 22, and that Danish prices and Canadian prices have advanced four shillings per hundred-weight already. I am not advancing that, and I would suggest to my hon. friends opposite not to interpret it as such, by way of suggesting that some wonderful utopian period is being ushered in. I am stating it as a simple fact. It is an indication which I think we can reasonably accept that this particular arrangement is going to be beneficial to Canadian trade.

Mr. SANDERSON: I had no intention of being discourteous to the minister at all.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. SANDERSON: I wish to say to hon. members opposite that I have nothing to learn from them. Apparently the minister is not quite sure whether the High Commissioner in London has any more information about this matter than he has. I shall come nearer home. A few days ago the Minister of Agriculture in the Ontario legislature, Colonel Kennedy, made a statement in which he pictured a very rosy future for farmers in the hog industry. He said that in a year or two the hog industry would increase ten fold or twenty fold, and that it would come to a point—and I am suggesting that he is probably a prophet or a son of a prophet—whereby as a result of this wonderful treaty the farmers in the province of Ontario would be able to pay their taxes from their activity in the hog industry. Perhaps he had some information the Minister of Trade and Commerce has not got.

A few moments ago the minister said discussion was futile; I think that is correct. There is not a single, solitary commitment in article 6 which will benefit the farmers in Canada engaged in the hog industry. It is all eye-wash and window dressing. It is possible that something may work out of it, but in the meantime there is nothing to it at all. The minister and his supporters say, "Look