

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: If the growers of cattle are all broke there, what object would there be in sending any of our cattle there at the present time?

Hon. Mr. WEIR: Not at the present time; but under natural conditions, I would say yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We will now hear Mr. Rothwell, the Livestock Commissioner.

Hon. Mr. WEIR: There is one point I should like to correct, Mr. Chairman, in what I said with respect to chilled beef. Mr. Light, who is in charge of our marketing service, tells me there has been of late years a very decided swing from frozen to chilled beef export from the Argentine to Great Britain. My impression was that the percentage of frozen was much higher than chilled. You think it is the opposite, Mr. Light?

Mr. P. E. LIGHT (In charge of marketing service): The Argentine, with their specialized system of refrigeration in transit, have gradually got away from the cheaper class of beef. That is, frozen beef sells at a lower price than chilled beef, which latter is a much higher quality product. I think Australia is taking care of practically all the frozen beef trade. Most of the frozen beef is going to the Continent.

Mr. GEORGE B. ROTHWELL (Livestock Commissioner, Department of Agriculture):

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rothwell, you have heard Mr. Weir's statement. We are here for the purpose of getting any information which the officials of the Department of Agriculture think will be useful to us in our inquiry. Mr. Weir has gone into matters very thoroughly, but perhaps there is something you would like to outline to us. We will leave it largely to your own judgment.

Mr. ROTHWELL: Mr. Chairman; I am afraid there is not a very great deal I can say to you. In fact, I have been wondering just why the Minister of Agriculture brought in with him, those so-called experts.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: He knows all himself.

Mr. ROTHWELL: He has demonstrated to you that he is a fairly good expert himself.

Last year Mr. Light and I were privileged to come before this Committee, at which time we discussed certain points relative to the export cattle trade that were of interest at that time. Then we were not so fortunate as to have our minister with us, so we had to do more of the talking ourselves.

There are one or two things dealt with by Mr. Weir that I think might be amplified to some extent. It has been made very clear by him and by others here that we have two outlets for our cattle. One has been termed a natural outlet. I think you used that term, sir, because of the flow of trade.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: I was quoting your minister.

Mr. ROTHWELL: Well, we will use that term. The other is more or less of an artificial outlet, for I think we can to a certain extent term the British market an artificial outlet. I am using these not as specific terms, but simply to differentiate between the two.

The business of shipping live cattle from Calgary or Edmonton to Glasgow and other British markets possibly is not considered by many people as an economic operation. It is done, but it is difficult to discern the economy of it when you consider it as package freight. That is, the animal must be supplied with so much space and air and feed in transit. There is some question in the minds of many people whether it is economical. Nevertheless, it is a decidedly important business.