

Mr. BLACKMORE: I did not quote any advisers.

Mr. GARDINER: In other words, that is not a problem for the government to deal with or to take money out of the treasury to deal with.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I did not quote any authority at all.

Mr. GARDINER: My hon. friend has quoted the president of one of the associations to whom I wrote a letter.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I quoted no authority.

Mr. GARDINER: Then, on April 6: 9·75 cents in 1942, 11·65 cents in 1943, and 11·15 cents in 1944.

Mr. BLACKMORE: All right, another disastrous loss.

Mr. GARDINER: That is a drop of half a cent a pound.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Over a whole month.

Mr. GARDINER: Over a whole week.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Over a whole month of marketing.

Mr. GARDINER: That particular date—yes, that is a month later.

Mr. BLACKMORE: That is disastrous.

Mr. GARDINER: My hon. friend knows this, if he knows anything about cattle—

Mr. BLACKMORE: He knows about cattle.

Mr. GARDINER: —as he says he does; he knows that anyone who is attempting to feed cattle and market them on a margin of less than half a cent a pound—well, he must have a remarkable judgment in connection with cattle. Anyone who does not bank on there being a difference of half a cent a pound over a month any year in the marketing of cattle is taking very long chances in his feeding. You can take any year for the past twenty years and you will find variations very much greater than that variation in the price of cattle as between different years.

On May 4 there is a difference of five cents.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Another drop. That is two quotations.

Mr. GARDINER: 10·25, 11·35, 11·30.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Well, who would imagine it?

Mr. GARDINER: Who would imagine a farmer buying cattle and making a great loss because of the difference between 11·35 and 11·30?

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. BLACKMORE: But there are two whole months of marketings there.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, even if there are two whole months of marketings.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The minister does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. GARDINER: The half cent a pound over that period of time, as compared with another year in which the prices were the highest on record in recent years, does not indicate that the farmers were up against the possibility of an enormous loss, because of that alone. I am speaking now of ninety per cent of the farmers. The man who paid eleven cents in the fall and sold at eleven cents in the spring no doubt lost some money, but I am speaking of the man who had some cattle and grain and fed the cattle on the grain, and that applies to about ninety per cent of cattle in this country.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Who would imagine that, with a higher ceiling price in 1944 than there was in 1943, the price of stock would be lower than it was in 1943? You see the situation is just practically absurd to any intelligent man.

Mr. GARDINER: There is a quarter of a cent on beef, which is about one-eighth of a cent on the cattle, and if my hon. friend can figure any closer than that, he is a good one.

Mr. BLACKMORE: That is a lot, on fifty steers. I understand the feeding business fairly well; the picture which is delineated by the minister spells disaster for feeders of stock, and there is not a feeder in my constituency who will not support me in that statement. Remember, there was a higher ceiling price in 1944 but a lower price for the stock being sold, and many men were unable to get offerings at all. It is just so terrible that one would hardly think the minister would fail to realize it.

One other thing. The minister even yet has not given the price at which these cattle entered the feed lots. He must bear in mind that, when prices for finished cattle were high, in 1943, naturally those who had feeder cattle to offer demanded higher prices for their feeder cattle, and those who were prospective feeders naturally felt confident in offering higher prices. The result was that feeders were put in a position where they were exceedingly vulnerable. If you want any more evidence to prove that the whole situation was bungled, you are certainly hard to convince.

The minister mentioned cows. The cows which were fed were not cows that were