

desired to have any surpluses which we in Canada had, I would be a supporter of the farmers and everyone else, I assume, in Canada in asking that the United States market be opened up. That, I think, to all intents and purposes is the meaning of the statement read to the house a few moments ago. In order to determine whether or not that time has been reached, we should pursue the story as to what has happened in connection with beef. The suggestion was made that I had advised the farmers at that particular time to hold their cattle for heavier weight, and again I say I gave that advice to the farmers then.

Mr. BLACKMORE: They took it.

Mr. GARDINER: And they were quite satisfied in taking it. They were wise in taking it.

Mr. BLACKMORE: They surely paid for it.

Mr. GARDINER: They made money by taking it.

Mr. BLACKMORE: They lost money.

Mr. GARDINER: I will show in a few moments that they made money. Now, why was that advice given? The advice was given in the fall of 1942 because it had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of everyone that all the beef we had in Canada in the summer of 1942 was needed on this market. That was demonstrated right through until the fall of the year. I recall that the member for Lethbridge got up in the house following the fall of 1942 and made a statement. I have not forgotten what he said; I have always remembered it, because I intended to reply to it some day. He got up following the fall of 1942 and criticized me as Minister of Agriculture. He criticized the Department of Agriculture and criticized the government because commercial feeders in Alberta and elsewhere were not able to buy cattle at as low a price in the fall of 1942 in relation to earlier prices as they had been for twenty years previously. Well, that means only one thing. It means that since less than ten per cent of the beef produced in Canada is produced in feeder lots, ninety per cent of the farmers in the country ought to have been prepared in the fall of 1942 to take at least one and a half cents less—and provision was made at the time for two cents less on beef—in the fall of 1942 for their cattle in order that somebody might be able to make a profit on them in the spring of 1943.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Was not a subsidy possible?

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. GARDINER: I have no hesitation in saying that I did object to that policy. I did advise the farmers to feed their own cattle instead of selling them at one and a half cents to two cents less in September or October. I advised them to utilize the great crops of grain we had produced in Canada in order to feed their own cattle through the winter, and by so doing at least double the selling price which they were allowed to make on their grain if they sold it to other farmers to feed cattle elsewhere, or to commercial feeders. In other words, it is obvious to anyone that if a man has cattle on his farm which sell at nine cents a pound in the fall, if he has oats on his farm pegged at 51 cents a bushel, barley pegged at 64 cents a bushel, wheat pegged at 90 cents a bushel, and if he puts those cattle into his own stalls and feeds them through to the spring, putting from 200 to 300 pounds on each of them, and if he gets two cents a pound more for them in the spring than he would have got in the fall, he will make at least \$1.25 on his oats, \$1.70 on his barley, and a considerably higher price on his wheat. And so I said to the farmers, "Keep your cattle in your own barn. Feed them your own oats, your own barley, your own wheat. Instead of giving them to the commercial feeders in Alberta or anywhere else in Canada, feed them yourself, finish them, and then you will sell your grain to better advantage in the spring than you would have been able to do if you had sold the cattle and the grain as well."

My hon. friend says that the farmers took my advice. I now answer his question as to whether or not by doing so they made a profit by simply referring him to the facts that I have stated. Ninety per cent of the farmers made a profit by doing it. Ninety per cent of the cattle fed by the farmers brought greater profits to the farming industry by following that policy than the farmers would have received by selling the cattle at nine cents per pound in the fall of 1942 to some person who would feed them over the winter with the farmer's own grain, which the farmers sold to them, and in the spring of the year sell the cattle on the market at eleven cents a pound. I advised against that policy. The farmers, therefore, did not deliver as many cattle in the fall of 1942. They did hold their cattle through to the spring of 1943, and when my hon. friend asks who paid the bills, I refer him right back to the criticisms he made a few moments ago. He attempted to indicate to the house committee, and as a matter of fact it is true to the extent of one cent or two cents, or four or five cents a hundred, and for as high as sixty-five cents a hundred at one