

which those potatoes are grown, and because of the kind of soil in which they are produced, they are exceptionally fine. We have much of that similar climate, and much of that similar soil in the western part of Canada.

Might I add that we have a few hundred thousand acres of potatoes grown in Canada. At the present time the natural place to grow them is in New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island—

An hon. MEMBER: And Nova Scotia.

Mr. GARDINER: And Nova Scotia, my hon. friend says. Most of them are produced in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, for commercial purposes. I have visited those areas, and I am inclined to think that if any other group of farmers in Canada were to take away the market which the people of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have for potatoes, the people who live in that section of Canada would have a difficult time making a living for themselves. I do not think this government should do anything, even in connection with floor prices, which would make it impossible for those people to have the market to which they have been accustomed for the potatoes they grow in those areas.

That brings me to the point that we have about 300,000 farmers in western Canada, all of whom, or practically all of whom grow on their own farms the potatoes they require. But they have not been accustomed, and to my mind there is no reason why they should become accustomed to producing potatoes to be marketed in other parts of Canada. But I wish to say that if they were induced to produce only five acres each of potatoes, there would not be a market anywhere in this country for potatoes produced in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Five acres on each of the farms in western Canada, producing potatoes of the kind they can produce and in the quantities they could produce, and shipped to the markets of this country, would drive potatoes from other parts of Canada off the market. With regard to a product of that kind some thought and attention and some care have to be given by the government. We have to be careful not to get results which we do not intend to get.

Therefore I wish to say only this, in so far as potatoes are concerned, that we had to give considerable care and attention to the setting of floor prices which would be sufficiently high to induce people all across Canada to go into the production of potatoes—because you can produce potatoes in any backyard, anywhere across this country, from one end to the other.

When it comes to other farm products, however, such as have been discussed here this evening—cattle, hogs, wheat and feed grain products—there are reasons why they can be discussed from a different point of view. Take feed grain, for example. We have been accustomed to feeding the greater part of the feed grain we grow on the farms where it is grown, shipping comparatively small quantities from the west to eastern Canada in order that the eastern farmers might produce more live stock than they could otherwise. The problem of dealing with coarse grains, in relation to both ceiling and floor prices, is quite different from the problem of dealing with the other products of which I have been speaking.

Then as far as beef cattle are concerned, in Canada we have been producing beef for two markets. Before the war we produced beef for the Canadian and United States markets, with very little going to the British market. We sent some 20,000 to 40,000 head to Britain and some 300,000 head to the United States; the remainder were consumed in this country. The problem with regard to beef is somewhat different from the problem in regard to either of the products of which I have been speaking. Beef cattle can be and are raised on practically every farm all the way across Canada. We can and do raise them in British Columbia, on the prairies, in central and eastern Canada and in the maritimes. The same thing is true in regard to hogs, but I am sure hon. members will agree that we have had sufficient experience during the war to know we can get an enormous production of hogs by changing the price level. It has been suggested that the price level has not been changed as much as might have been the case, but I should like to mention the prices in regard to these two products during various months in the years from 1938 to 1944. The figures in regard to good steers, up to 1,050 pounds, at Winnipeg, were as follows for the month of January in each of the following years:

Year	Per 100 pounds
1938.....	\$ 4 83
1939.....	5 99
1940.....	6 65
1941.....	8 07
1942.....	8 83
1943.....	10 44
1944.....	11 31

So that there has been a gradual increase every year from 1938 up to the present. I now give the figures for the month of June in the same years: