

Mr. LIGHT: Yes, extremely so. I might say that the Stockyards Administration and the Markets Intelligence are like twins. It would be pretty hard to divorce one from the other without causing deterioration in both or either. The providing of efficient facilities for the liquidation of our annual livestock surplus is just part of a general scheme for giving to the producers the most efficient all-round service that we can in securing for his livestock its maximum value.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Mr. Light, I do not want to press you for an opinion, but if your opinion is one way would it not affect the information that you are sending out to the people?

Mr. LIGHT: No, we report the market as is off scale tickets.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: As you find it?

Mr. LIGHT: Exactly.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: And you watch both this market and the English market as well?

Mr. LIGHT: We do.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: We were told the other day that we have some British buyers here at the present time. In your opinion are they paying a fair price?

Mr. LIGHT: They are paying competitive prices.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: Are they paying fair prices?

Mr. LIGHT: They are. They are paying all the export trade will bear, and in some cases a little more.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: The reason I ask is that someone said these people had taken up all the space, and I was wondering if they were paying a fair price.

Mr. LIGHT: They are, sir. The fact that they have that space would be an incentive to them to protect themselves in the way of volume. It is an urge to get the cattle to fill the space.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: They might get the volume and not pay a fair price.

Mr. LIGHT: They have, sir. They are paying a competitive price.

The CHAIRMAN: Now we will hear from Mr. McCallum.

I understand, Mr. McCallum, that you are going to give some evidence in regard to the operation of stockyards. I think it is only fair to say to you that the Committee proposes to hear some producers and drovers as well as representatives of the live stock exchanges, later on. We would be glad to get whatever information you can give us now, and possibly at a later date we will call upon you again.

Mr. J. M. MCCALLUM (Stock Yard Service Branch, Department of Agriculture): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I may say that any information that I have to give is based on actual operations of stockyards and live stock exchanges, and is given by me as the officer of the Dominion Live Stock Branch who has been charged with the administration of this Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act, which takes considerable control over stockyards and exchanges. I have a brief only for our department, and not for the stockyards or live stock exchanges. Any evidence I have to give now or later will be based on that fact.

I wonder if I may take a moment to answer a question that was put to Mr. Light by the Hon. Senator Forke and Hon. Senator Sinclair regarding reporting prices. Our market representatives at the several stockyards have explicit instructions to report daily the market as it is. Should there be a rise or fall for which there is no apparent reason, that is not to be taken into consideration. The actual prices officially marked on the official sale tickets, are the basis. We are very proud of the promptness and accuracy with which we get these details to the producers of live stock.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: Who sends you these reports?