

*The Address—Mr. Follwell*

dedication of the memorial gates commemorating the sacrifice made by the airmen of the British commonwealth air training scheme. I would urge every hon. member who has the opportunity of passing that way to stop and inspect those magnificent gates presented and erected by the governments of Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and the United States. They are a work of art and an inspiration to all the young men who are now in training under the national defence scheme at the Royal Canadian Air Force station at Trenton.

Also at Trenton we have what is known as No. 6 repair depot. This is the largest repair depot maintained by the Royal Canadian Air Force, and is and has been of great value and service not only in the prosecution of the war but in maintaining the equipment necessary to keep the defence force on the alert in peacetime. May I add that upon the occasion of the opening of the gates at Trenton we were honoured by the presence of Lord Tedder, chief of air staff, as the representative of Great Britain.

Hastings is one of the greatest cheese-producing counties in Canada, and may I say with pardonable pride that in 1949 it led all other counties in this wide dominion in the production of cheese. Not only does it produce an abundance of that commodity but it is also noted for its production of apples.

During the recess of parliament, as no doubt did every other hon. member, I attended a number of farmer protest meetings dealing with the falling prices of farm products. I remember distinctly attending a meeting of the cheese producers association in our county, where the statement was made that there was a surplus of cheese. I suggested at that meeting that, through co-operative efforts of the dominion and provincial governments, it would be well to set up a method of merchandising cheese products. There was also a discussion concerning prices.

During my remarks I pointed out that I had—and I still have—the utmost confidence in the leadership of our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). I said to the people assembled there that I knew we could count on the minister to see to it that the farmers got a square deal. After my remarks I was followed by my good friend the member of the provincial legislature who said that the farmers did not want a fair deal, but that they wanted 30 cents a pound for their cheese.

At that time the support price of 28 cents had not been established. Soon after that meeting however it was established. This price was set up because the dominion government was prepared to pay a subsidy of three cents per pound above the contract price. At

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following protest meetings I said to my good friend who had pointed out that the farmers did not want a fair deal, but did want 30 cents for their cheese, that the dominion government had now seen fit to support the price at 28 cents and to provide a subsidy to the extent of three cents per pound. I stated further that in my view it was up to the provincial government of Ontario to pay two cents per pound so as to support the price at 30 cents—that is, on the assumption that a price of 30 cents is necessary. Indeed I believe it is, because it is my contention that no matter what is being produced, whether it be on the farm or in the factory, it must be produced at a profit.

Before the war the per capita consumption of cheese in Canada stood at three pounds while that in Great Britain was sixteen pounds.

I believe that with a proper merchandising scheme the per capita consumption in Canada can be boosted. Indeed I am informed that it has now risen to approximately five pounds per capita; and if it can be doubled to ten pounds I am convinced we will have no surplus problem. We would then have very little cheese to export and we could afford to give that away to help the unfortunate people in Europe.

I believe that all governments, provincial and dominion, ought to, and I am sure they will, co-operate in the merchandising of apples. If the per capita consumption of apples could be increased we would then be in the same position as we would be with cheese. We would have such a small surplus that we could give it away and yet everyone in Canada would be better fed and the producers would find their operations more profitable.

The dominion government has established a floor price of 38 cents a dozen for eggs and since that action was taken egg prices have tended to level off. I was informed only today by an hon. member that his wife had paid 54 cents per dozen in Ottawa for eggs.

**Mr. Hodgson:** She was taken in.

**Mr. Follwell:** She may have been taken in, but I submit that that gives a nice profit. I am sure that the producer who received the 54 cents did not feel that he had been taken in.

I am gratified to find on the order paper a resolution to set up a committee to study contributory old age pensions and the means test. This committee should also study the problem of those who are permanently incapacitated but yet have not reached the age at which they would become pensionable. There are a number of people in my constituency who have been stricken fairly early