

Agricultural Products Act

to a large extent upon ERP funds from the United States. The United States has already declared a great many food products to be surplus commodities. When these food products are declared surplus, then ERP dollars are no longer available for the purchase of these commodities in Canada by the European countries. Among the commodities that have been declared surplus are oats, tobacco, dried eggs, beans, potatoes, flaxseed, linseed oil, and wool. As the number of commodities declared surplus by the United States increases, our agricultural industry will lose more and more of its present markets.

This year the Minister of Agriculture made a statement which I think is a correct summary of the situation. He said that we are getting back to the 1932 basis for food contracts with Great Britain. That is a most disappointing announcement to make to the farmers of Canada. Is that the best this government has been able to do—to take the farmers back to the 1932 contracts? In 1932 conditions were not very good for the farmers. The farmers do not want to be forced to return to conditions as they were in 1932. I must point out that while our bacon contract for 1949 is the same as it was in 1932—that is, 160 million pounds—our cheese contract is for 50 million pounds, whereas in 1932 it was for 60 million pounds. This government, therefore, is not maintaining even the position Canada held in the British market in 1932. When our agricultural markets dwindle, agricultural production does not decrease to the same extent. Farmers must produce year in and year out. That is part of the inherent nature of farming. When the farmers' production is greater than available markets for it, prices fall. When the price level starts to fall, farmers well know that the prices of their products fall further and faster than the prices of the things they have to buy.

I say that the government's over-all policy in relation to maintaining the British market for agricultural products has failed miserably. The government, through its policy, and through the words of the Minister of Agriculture, has already announced that we are going back to the 1932 basis. I deplore that statement. I believe that this government should take the initiative to provide greater markets for British goods in Canada and make certain that Great Britain has sufficient dollars to buy all the bacon, cheese and eggs the farmers want to sell to Great Britain, and thus ensure agricultural prosperity in the years ahead.

Mr. J. A. Charlton (Brant): The resolution before the house, Mr. Speaker, refers to a bill which I contend should be called the agricultural products prices control act.

[Mr. Argue.]

Mr. Gardiner: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, may I just be permitted to say this? It is not the intention to continue with this discussion after three o'clock. There are other bills that must be got through, and there must be some certainty of getting them through. At the beginning of this discussion the Prime Minister suggested that we might allow this resolution to pass and get the bill on the order paper so that it could be dealt with later this day, or perhaps tomorrow. But if we are to go on until one o'clock I am afraid we shall not get the bill before the house today.

Mr. Knowles: Let us take the vote now.

Mr. Drew: That suggestion is acceptable. As already indicated, it is our purpose to call for a vote, and that can be disposed of now.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Gardiner) which was agreed to on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Abbott	Garson
Archibald	Gauthier (Nipissing)
Argue	Gauthier (Portneuf)
Arsenault	Gibson (Comox-Alberni)
Ashby	Gibson (Hamilton West)
Baker	Gillis
Beaudoin	Gingues
Belzile	Golding
Bentley	Gour (Russell)
Bertrand (Laurier)	Gourd (Chapleau)
Bertrand (Prescott)	Grant
Bertrand (Terrebonne)	Gregg
Black (Chateauguay-Huntingdon)	Hallé
Blackmore	Hamel
Blanchette	Hansell
Boivin	Harris (Grey-Bruce)
Bonnier	Healy
Boucher	Herridge
Bourget	Howe
Bradette	Irvine
Brown	Jaenicke
Brunelle	Johnston
Bryce	Jones
Caouette	Jutras
Castleden	Knight
Chevrier	Knowles
Claxton	Kuhl
Cleaver	LaCroix
Cloutier	Lafontaine
Coldwell	Langlois
Coté (Verdun)	Laurendeau
Croll	Lesage
Cruikshank	Little
Dechene	McCann
Dickey	McCuaig
Dion (Lake St. John-Roberval)	McCulloch (Pictou)
Dionne (Beauce)	McCullough (Assiniboia)
Douglas	McGarry
Emmerson	McIlraith
Eudes	MacInnis
Fair	McKay
Fournier (Hull)	MacKinnon
Fournier (Maison-neuve-Rosemont)	MacLean
Gardiner	MacNaught
Gariépy	Maloney