

## Agricultural Products Board

Mr. Gardiner: Yes. The table is as follows:

(1) Commodity	(2) Unit	(3) Average Wholesale Market Price at Montreal			(4)	
		1943	1944	1945	Average 11 months 1951*	Latest quota- tion
		\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
(a) Eggs Grade A Large.....	dozen	0.45	0.41	0.43	0.674	0.55 Dec. 11
(b) Cheese No. 1.....	lb.	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.375	0.37 Dec. 15
(c) Butter No. 1.....	lb.	0.36	0.36	0.37	0.616-0.68	0.665 Dec. 15
(d) Whole milk price to farmers at dairy.....	cwt.	.....	2.50	2.50	4.32	4.50 Dec. 15
(e) Hogs—B1 carcasses.....	cwt.	16.94	17.25	18.20	33.88	29.60 Dec. 12
(f) Fancy B.C. McIntosh apples.....	42 lb. box	3.36	3.07	3.46	2.94	none
(g) Canada No. 1 N.B. Potatoes.....	cwt.	2.26	2.33	2.57	2.19	4.00 Dec. 15

\* Are average of monthly prices,—not weighted average.

Mr. Bryce: The prices the minister has quoted are dealers' prices. They are not the prices to the producers. Am I right?

Mr. Gardiner: They are wholesale prices.

Mr. Bryce: Have you the prices the producers received? That is what we are really interested in. We are not interested in what the dealer gets.

Mr. Gardiner: I am sure the hon. member for Selkirk, who is a practical farmer and who delivers products to the Winnipeg market, will readily agree when I say it would be absolutely impossible for me to go across Canada and get the prices at which these products are sold in every community. It just could not be done. There are, however, estimated averages worked out which are available, and they bear a reasonable relationship to these prices.

Mr. Bryce: I do not want to take up the time of the committee, but why continually look after the dealer? Look after the man who is producing the goods.

Mr. Argue: I was very pleased indeed to hear the minister's announcement that the government is going to continue the present support prices for eggs and bacon for another year. I am only sorry the minister and the government have not agreed to increase the floor price.

Mr. Gardiner: Before the hon. member goes on I should have said, and I want to say it [Mr. Coldwell.]

now, that the floor price for butter was set last year for two years. In the meantime we increased the amount we were offering from 58 to 63 cents. That has been allowed to run indefinitely, and we have not received butter. We got about 280,000 pounds at that price, and that is all. The price of 63 cents has run along to date.

Mr. Argue: I am glad to have the minister's further explanation. As he said, the figures he gave the house are averages of the prices prevailing throughout the year. The difficulty with them is that while they appear fairly high, the price for hogs, shall we say, is high when hogs are not coming on the market, and in the fall period when they are coming on the market you have a lower price. A much better policy for agriculture would be a floor price raised or lowered from time to time as farmers' costs of production go up or down. If there were a more adequate floor price for eggs I do not think we would see egg prices reaching the high peaks they have reached over the last year. If the government raised the floor price, it would thereby stimulate production, and that increased production would stop egg, hog, and other prices from going very high. The price the minister has stated is an average price over the year. But for the farmer, the price he receives is highly fluctuating and highly unsatisfactory. In the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* the other day I read that the quoted price for grade A large eggs is now 38 cents in Saskatoon. With the floor