

Supply—Agriculture

would detect a definite trend toward greater efficiency. This will lead to new problems but also to increased potential.

We have in Canada two main new breeds of hogs. I wish to make particular reference to the Landrace breed which has come in during the last four or five years and which is making a distinguished mark on the Canadian hog scene. I need only point out that in 1956, the first year in which the Canadian national livestock records registered this new breed, there were some 1,172 animals registered. By 1958 the number had jumped to 14,268 compared with some 21,751 for the long established Yorkshires. In other words, last year the Landrace breed registered virtually two-thirds the total of Yorkshires registered, the latter being the traditional Canadian breed. These were the figures registered with the Canadian national livestock record office.

In addition, we have the new Lacombe breed, developed at the Lacombe station in Alberta, a breed that promises to give considerable impetus to the production of pure-bred animals. It will have a considerable potential in high efficiency hog production, and will also be applied in the increasing trend toward cross breeding in this country. Thus, it seems to me, we face many challenges at this time. I feel we must expand our record of performance and advanced registry station facilities. This would serve as an incentive to hog producers, in the improvement of their stock.

Another incentive would come if the present one dollar premium on grade B-1 hogs were removed and added to the two dollar premium on grade A hogs. I do not think we should encourage a second grade of hog. The encouragement offered to grade A production is not sufficient today even with the price differential which the packers are paying, plus the premium. It is often found that producers through different methods of production receive a greater net return by producing grade B hogs. I would suggest that the premium be raised on grade A hogs to provide a greater incentive in Canada for production of hogs of this grade.

This is important for various reasons. We have seen the increase in our United States markets and exports. From my personal knowledge and experience in the United States I am able to state that the producers in that country are making considerable progress in raising the quality of their hogs. We know their experience on the quality level is considerably below ours. As a matter of fact, I find it rather interesting to note that one of the main reference books on our Canadian system of hog production is one produced by the research division of the United States department of agriculture, published in April

of 1958. A year or so before that, they sent a commission or group to Canada to study the methods of grading, breeding and selection we had introduced into our hog business during the previous 30 years.

While United States marketings are still done on a live basis and their quality of pork products is far below ours, they are taking significant and important steps to improve their position. Progress is being made particularly in the midwest in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and others. Experimental stations such as the United States department of agriculture's station at Beltsville, Maryland, are examining this matter very closely as well. Thus, to maintain and improve our markets in the United States and to be in a competitive position, I might add, in the future years as well, since imports again may come in from that country, it is of the utmost importance for us to improve the quality of our hogs.

I would add that the British markets are of great importance as well, Mr. Chairman. In addition the methods mentioned this afternoon by the Minister of Agriculture with regard to government supports for hogs are probably very healthy indeed. We would be getting out of the pork buying field if we follow the suggestion that he mentioned, this coming autumn. We would be probably setting a quota system on which deficiency payments would be paid only on a certain number of hogs, and it would not control—and I think this is very important—the total number of hogs which any producer could put on the market. It would control the deficiency payments which he could receive, but not the actual number of hogs which he could produce.

This is of great importance, and it is part of the feeling which I and many producers have. While we need assistance, the more government assistance we receive beyond a certain point means that we lose our own independence and the right to do our own programming. These are some points I wanted to make and I feel they are of great importance to the Canadian hog industry.

Mr. Argue: My first words are to say to the Minister of Agriculture I appreciate very much the fact that he made such a comprehensive reply this morning and this afternoon to statements that have been made in this debate today and on previous occasions. I hope I shall be pardoned if I say I think that some of his colleagues in the cabinet might take a leaf out of his book because I think it adds greatly to the type of debate we can have in parliament if we can get an adequate and a comprehensive reply from the minister responsible for the department and the items under discussion.