

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

April 7, 1948.

The Special Committee on Prices met this day at 4.00 p.m. The Chairman, Hon. Paul Martin, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: The meeting will come to order.

I know the difficulty that members are under, a difficulty which is no less my own; but it would be appreciated if we could always be here about two minutes to four. We have lost twenty minutes today. It was not the fault of anyone because the orders of the day kept us in the House. But I am going to ask members of the committee who have up to now been extremely regular in their attendance and punctuality to try and retain that position.

Mr. MONET: I will recall Mr. Silverwood, Mr. Duplan and Mr. Gillies.

Edward Gordon Silverwood, President Silverwood Dairies Limited, recalled:

John Harold Duplan, Executive Vice-President, Silverwood Dairies Limited, recalled:

John Harold Gillies, Vice-President and Treasurer, Silverwood Dairies Limited, recalled:

Mr. MONET: Mr. Silverwood, at adjournment yesterday you had just given the prices for butter and butterfat for June 1 and the first of each month up to the present time.

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes.

Mr. MONET: I notice that from the 1st of August to the 1st of September in the price of butter as given by you yesterday there was an increase of 8 cents a pound?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes.

Mr. MONET: And between the 1st of November and the 1st of December there was an increase of 6 cents per pound?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes.

Mr. MONET: And between the 1st of December and the 1st of January there was an increase of 4½ cents a pound?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes.

Mr. MONET: Would you tell members of the committee what were the main factors for the price going up so sharply at these three different periods?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: I think the chief answer to the question is found in the figures of butter statistics on production and disappearance of butter as published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For instance, at the 1st of July the stocks of butter at the beginning of the month as compared with a year ago were up about 2,700,000 pounds. At the end of July they were only up 631,000 pounds. In other words, in the month of July there was a decrease as compared