

sands of beef in my constituency that remained on the feeding lots until the feeders sustained a devastating loss because they could not get an offer for the beef, whereas a year before buyers had been scouring the country for that very kind of beef and offering for it prices that were attractively remunerative. That is the disaster which overtook the feeders of beef in my constituency this year. It is all in those simple words, and no amount of speaking will cover the matter up. If there is need for beef, surely the beef producers should be able to sell when they are ready to sell. The minister simply has not taken into account the fearful loss a man sustains in feeding a herd of twenty-five or thirty up to a hundred head of beef cattle after the beef are ready to market, with prices of hay and feed and labour as they are to-day.

Mr. GARDINER: Beef are not like hogs. You do not have to sell them at a certain weight to make money out of them.

Mr. BLACKMORE: There is a maximum beyond which they do not readily add weight.

Mr. EVANS: Do not the two and three-year olds add weight?

Mr. BLACKMORE: Heavy weight steers do not gain very rapidly, and mature cows which are fed after they are eight years old do not add weight rapidly. Do not let the minister think I know nothing about beef.

Mr. EVANS: You do not know much about feeding cattle.

Mr. BLACKMORE: You have no idea what I know. You might be astonished. But I do not undertake to reveal all that I know before the hon. member. I was not always a member of parliament, not by any means. I was raised right up with beef and know beef pretty well.

This is the situation. No man who was feeding cattle could conceive last fall that he would be unable to sell. Not one man in a hundred could have conceived last fall that he would have to sell at lower prices than in 1943. The very figures which the minister gave when he read out the prices for 1942, 1943 and 1944 picture the tragedy. Imagine having to take a lower rate—

Mr. GARDINER: For a few weeks.

Mr. BLACKMORE: —for the three succeeding periods which the minister mentioned!

Mr. GARDINER: All inside a few weeks. Let me give the figures again.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Yes; give them again. The minister spoke for so long that I may have overlooked something.

Mr. GARDINER: March 2 is the only one that I gave where there was a considerable decrease.

Mr. BLACKMORE: But it was a decrease.

Mr. GARDINER: Let me read the figures: \$9.25, 1942; \$11.50, 1943; \$10.85, 1944.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Enough to ruin a man.

Mr. GARDINER: That is a decrease of sixty-five cents.

Mr. BLACKMORE: That is enough to ruin a man feeding a herd of 50 cattle.

Mr. GARDINER: If he bought them at the price my hon. friend suggests he ought to be able to buy them at, one cent or one and a half to two cents under that selling price, he certainly was not going to take any loss. The representative who came from Alberta told me this, and I agree. He said: "I can take cattle on to my range in the spring of the year at ten cents a pound, and I can sell them off the grass in the fall of the year at nine cents a pound and make money on them."

Mr. BLACKMORE: Certainly, because he is on the grass.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, on the grass.

Mr. BLACKMORE: He is not feeding grain and hay.

Mr. GARDINER: I can give the hon. member for Lethbridge the answer I gave him "There is another reason; you have cheaper grass from the government."

Mr. BLACKMORE: And less labour.

Mr. GARDINER: "You can put your cattle on the grass in the spring, and on the increase in weight you can make money."

Mr. BLACKMORE: Exactly.

Mr. GARDINER: But I said, "Why do you come to the government and ask the government to take care of your problem? Why do you not sell the cattle at a cent less to these feed lot men, instead of compelling them to pay from ten to eleven cents for the cattle in the fall and they having to sell them at over eleven and one-half to twelve cents in the spring in order to make a profit?"

Mr. BLACKMORE: The minister is contending for the very thing I am contending for.

Mr. GARDINER: I am just telling the hon. member what some of the advisers he is quoting from had to say, and what the reply is to them.