

Mr. GARDINER: No, I am not suggesting that at all. I simply say I do not wish to argue the question as between the set of facts which the hon. member has produced and the set of facts which I have submitted to the committee. I only point out that there were one-fifth more hogs produced last year than the year before, and any member will agree that it will take one-fifth more feed to feed them. If we complied with Britain's wish and produced another one-fifth more for next year, it would take two-fifths more feed, whether grown in Ontario or in western Canada or in the Argentine. The fact is that we did bring in 4,600,000 bushels of corn from all sources including the Argentine in 1939. We brought in 5,399,000 bushels, or 743,000 bushels more last year, whether to feed chickens or whatever it was for. In other words, we were doing one of the things we have been asked by the members of the committee in all parts of the house to try to avoid doing now that our own farmers are finding it difficult to dispose of their products. We are bringing in feed products from long distances in order to make it possible to feed hogs, and I suggest that we should get that grain inside Canada if we can under these conditions.

If we are not able to sell wheat—and we all agree that we are not—it might be better to turn some of that land into the production of more of this coarse grain and allow the farmers of Ontario or of any other part of Canada to get this coarse grain. As to whether Ontario needs more or not, I had a telephone call from the department of agriculture in Toronto two or three days ago suggesting to me that there was a possibility that within a little more than a month from the time Ontario undertook to take a certain quantity of grain from western Canada or from elevators at Fort William to help to feed live stock in Ontario, practically the whole quota which had been set up to take care of the period down to July 15 had already been used up. That does not indicate that the farmers of Ontario do not need more feed, and I am told that they were so anxious to get it that they used up about one-quarter of the freight quota in paying a higher price for the feed than the feed was at the beginning of the period. In other words, instead of having the advantage of the whole four-quarters as compared with the beginning of the period, they were getting the advantage of about three-quarters.

An hon. MEMBER: What was the quota?

Mr. GARDINER: The quota was 3,200,000 bushels for Ontario. That indicates that even now there is a strong demand for feed grain

in Ontario, and I have no doubt there is a strong demand all the way down to the Atlantic.

Mr. McNEVIN: No doubt the minister is aware that large quantities of grain in western Ontario were destroyed last year, unfit for feed. That has a direct bearing on the question.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, I have been in their granaries and have seen the grain. That created this situation. They had to feed that grain on the farm; they could not ship it anywhere. That had something to do with the reduction in the consumption of greater quantities of grain from elsewhere, because the grain referred to by the hon. member could not be consumed anywhere else than on the farm. I will not argue with any one in the committee, but the demands are now for larger quantities of bacon and ham from Canada, and the very point raised by the hon. member for Victoria, Ontario, a moment ago is one of the reasons for it. Britain is saying to her people, not "Do not produce more meat because we do not want it," but, "We cannot afford to put more of our grain into meat." Britain says that one pound of certain kinds of grain is as valuable as food as four pounds of certain kinds of meat, and it takes four pounds of grain to make one pound of meat; so she says, "We will feed them grain whether they like it or not." We have a shortage of grain with which to feed live stock and, as a result of the shortage of live stock itself, Britain says to us, "We want you to feed more live stock." My suggestion is that we should be prepared to do it, and in preparing ourselves to do it we should get more coarse grains for the purpose.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The hon. member for Victoria, Ontario, is not objecting to the principle the minister is laying down, but he says that if we are to do this we should do it on a more equitable basis. That is what he is saying, if I understand him correctly, and there is something in that argument.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not wish to discuss that point further than to say that at present we are doing it on an equitable basis. Under this proposal we suggest four cents a bushel on a crop of 50 bushels to the acre. Under the plan now being followed in shipping feed grain into Ontario, we—not ourselves and the Ontario government combined, but this government alone—are paying a little more than four cents a bushel on every bushel shipped from the west to feed live stock in eastern Canada. I contend, therefore, that we are already doing this on a fifty-fifty basis as