

the increase in beef consumption being largely accounted for by the considerable restriction of consumption of pork products.

By January or February of 1942 we were not able to supply all the beef which was demanded by the markets at Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. In all the important sections of Canada there was a shortage of beef in the butcher shops. The wartime prices and trade board being entrusted with the task of securing beef for the Canadian people, for those who were training in the armed forces in Canada, whether the air force or any other, some of whom came from other countries, undertook to control the marketing of beef into the United States for the purpose of seeing to it that sufficient beef was on this market to supply its requirements. So that when in June, 1942, they found it necessary to restrict shipments into the United States, or at least to issue permits to their own corporation to secure beef which possibly might be shipped into the United States, it became necessary to turn practically all if not all of that beef back on to the Canadian market at the United States price. That is the reason for what happened, and it grew out of a situation which developed in connection with the production of meat fed to the British, to our other allies, to the armed forces in this country and to our own people. That policy continued until 1943.

I should here answer, perhaps, one of the questions asked with regard to 1942. The hon. member for Lethbridge asked whether, during the fall of 1942 or the spring of 1943, when actions were being taken with regard to beef, I had made any statements regarding the shipment of cattle into the United States. He also raised certain questions as to the discussions which took place between the farmers and ranchers of Alberta and any authorities in Ottawa with respect to price control and its relationship to the marketing of cattle in the United States.

This matter did not take place under any actions started by the Department of Agriculture, but rather as a result of negotiations carried on by representatives of the prices board. My understanding, however, is that meetings were held in Alberta, and so far as I can remember the federal Department of Agriculture was not represented there. Those represented at the meetings were the producers of Alberta, plus representatives of the advisory committee of the prices board on meat, and the members of that advisory committee from Alberta were: Mr. Ross, who is an Alberta rancher; Mr. Taggart, who is a farmer at Olds; and, I think, at that time Mr. Grisdale, though perhaps he was an official of the board itself. All these men were

Albertans, and, I assume, have a knowledge of cattle raising and ranching activities in that province. Discussions were held at public meetings and certain resolutions passed, and some of those resolutions were on the line of the suggestions made a few moments ago by the hon. member for Lethbridge. One was to the effect that they believed that, under all the circumstances, the United States market should be made subject to permits issued by some government authority. I think they also recommended that a corporation should be set up which would purchase cattle up to the United States price, and certain discussions took place with regard to that particular matter. I am quite sure that nothing of the nature of the undertakings suggested in the questions asked by the hon. member for Lethbridge ever took place. I mean by that I do not believe any agreements were reached between the producers and the board.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think the minister had better reassure himself.

Mr. GARDINER: I have had quite a bit of discussion with regard to it, and I state that with fairly good assurance.

Mr. BLACKMORE: We have a mighty good memory of these things.

Mr. GARDINER: I have had serious difficulty even in finding the resolutions which were passed, perhaps because some people are not very proud of them.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It will not take me very long to find them for the minister.

Mr. GARDINER: But these resolutions were passed, and certain actions were taken by the prices board, based largely on the suggestions made at that time. I do not think any assurances were given as to what would happen under certain circumstances; I believe there were discussions as to what might happen under certain circumstances, but I can say with assurance what I myself said, and what the hon. member has asked me to repeat on this occasion. I did state at that time what was read from a letter which, I think, was written to Mr. Ross, a rancher in Alberta and the gentleman to whom I referred a few moments ago as being a member of the committee who gave that advice. I wrote him to remind him of the fact that there were discussions at that time, and in doing so I also recalled a statement which I made at a public meeting. I believe in Brandon, Manitoba, during the time the discussions were going on, something to this effect, that when the time came that we had a surplus in Canada which was not required for the feeding of our allies, particularly the British, and the Americans