

in the province of Manitoba. The high standing Manitoba now occupies in connection with dairy products is due largely, I believe, to that grading system.

However, at the moment we are dealing with the grading of eggs and hogs. The resolution is very indefinite; it simply says that the Egg and Hog Grading Acts should be amended. I do not suppose anyone will contend that the grading of hogs is by any means one hundred per cent perfect. I think we can well admit that it is not and that when grading on the rail becomes practicable it will be better than the present system. I was interested in the statement of the Minister of Agriculture that he thinks they are now reaching some system of grading on the rail that will be satisfactory; I hope that may be the case. Any person who has given any consideration to the matter will, I believe, recognize that the difficulties of grading on the rail in a country like Canada are enormously greater than in such a country as Denmark where hogs are packed within a few miles of the place where they are raised. However, I do believe that though as I say the grading system as applied to hogs is not one hundred per cent perfect, yet there has been great improvement in the quality of hogs because of the grading system. I think the Minister of Agriculture will agree with that, as well as the former Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell). In the early days of hog grading considerable objection was raised on the part of the producers, but in my judgment and as far as my observation goes in my own community, these objections have long since disappeared. Producers generally, I believe, are satisfied that the quality of the product has been improved and that, while mistakes may be made at times, and it may not be possible for a hog grader to do his grading with perfect accuracy, generally speaking not only has there been an increased percentage of select bacon hogs but the whole level of hog products has been raised. In my opinion it would be a great mistake to go back to the old system because if we are to take advantage of the splendid opportunities open to us in the English market it can only be by maintaining a high quality of product. I hope nothing will be done that will tend to lessen the standard or take away from farmers the inducement to raise a high quality produce. Therefore not only by reason of this discussion but from what I have heard the Minister of Agriculture say on former occasions, I am likely to be in close agreement with him on this matter.

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Melville): Now that the principle of grading all farm products has run the gauntlet of successive governments I think we can take it that grading has come to stay. In 1922 only one farm product that I know of was sold on the basis of grade, that was grain. Since then successive governments have extended the grading policy, until now practically every exportable article, at all events, goes forward to the markets of the world on the basis of grade, that being the only way to get the best market and to encourage quality. I have to commend the Minister of Agriculture for taking the stand he has taken to-day; it is exactly what I would hope he would do, and what I hope successive governments will do. To go back now to the old haphazard way of selling eggs as eggs and pigs as pigs would be a terribly retrograde movement, particularly as we are now looking more and more to the British market as the chief market for our farm products. As the house knows, the British government passed in 1931 the Farm Marketing Act, the purpose of which is standardization of farm products, and also to provide for the marketing of the same. Newspaper reports indicate that this government is contemplating bringing down a similar act, to provide for the marketing of farm products in Canada on the basis of grade. I look forward to such legislation with pleasure. I really cannot understand why my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Mullins), a gentleman who has spent his life among live stock, should speak deprecatingly of the principle of grading. I sympathize in a measure with the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel); no doubt he feels impelled to take the stand he has taken, not an unreasonable stand; he is asking only for amendment and amendments are always in order. I have no doubt that some of his constituents have not yet grasped the idea on which grading is based, which is, not to make government positions, not to worry the farmers, but to encourage them to produce quality products by paying for them on the basis of grade and quality. The principle is so preeminently sound that I cannot conceive of it being abandoned and the old order restored.

With regard to grading hogs on the rail, I think that is good, although it can only be carried out in the larger centres. In small countries like Denmark it is all done that way as far as I know. Most of the hogs are delivered to the abattoirs in trucks, slaughtered immediately, and are on the rail before the farmer has got his chores done