

Agricultural Prices Support Act

send 120 million and sent only 40.6 million. That was at the time when we began to arrange to send our beef to the United States instead of sending it to Great Britain. In the fourth year we had an agreement for 50 million pounds, and sent 16.9 million. We then discontinued, and sent our beef to the United States.

With respect to poultry: Our first agreement was of November 11, 1943. We agreed to send 250,000 pounds and sent 258.3 thousand. The next year we agreed to send 2,000,000 pounds and we sent 1,973,000 pounds. The third year we agreed to send 12,500,000 pounds and we sent 13,329,000 pounds. That agreement was dropped and we have been shipping to the United States since.

In the case of eggs, the first contract in 1941 ran from April 1 to December 31. In that year we contracted for 13,800,000 dozen and we sent 15,337,000 dozen. The next year we contracted for 38,100,000 dozen and we sent 33,402,000 dozen. The next year we contracted for 57,000,000 dozen and we sent 33,643,000 dozen. The next year we contracted for 50,400,000 dozen and we sent 79,920,000 dozen. The following year, from January 1, 1945, to December 31, 1945, we contracted for 50,400,000 dozen and we sent 42,000,000 dozen in shell form and 47,700,000 dozen dried. The sixth year we contracted for 83,000,000 dozen and we sent 54,000,000 dozen shelled and 14,000,000 dozen dried. The next year we contracted for 83,000,000 dozen and we sent 58,000,000 dozen shelled and 30,569,000 dozen dried. The eighth year we contracted for 64,000,000 dozen and we sent 36,270,000 dozen shelled and 26,976,000 dozen dried. Last year we contracted to send 46,000,000 dozen but the final figure is not in this book. We did send something over 40,000,000 dozen.

I imagine hon. members might be interested in cheese. The first cheese contract was in 1940 and covered from May 28 to November 30. We contracted to send 78,000,000 pounds and we sent 93,000,000 pounds. The next year we contracted to send 112,000,000 pounds and we sent 115,000,000 pounds.

Mr. Charlton: Could the minister also give the prices?

Mr. Gardiner: The first year, 1940, the price was 14 cents per pound. In 1941 it was 14.4 cents. In the third year, which was 1942-43, we contracted to send 125 million pounds at 20 cents and we sent over 142 million pounds. In the fourth year we contracted for 150 million pounds at 20 cents and we sent 116.2 million pounds. In the fifth year we contracted for 125 million pounds at 20 cents and we sent 123 million pounds. In the sixth year we contracted for 125 million pounds at 20 cents and

we sent 126.7 million pounds. In the seventh year we contracted for 125 million pounds at 20 cents and we sent 92 million pounds. In the eighth year, which covered from April 1, 1947, to March 31, 1948, we contracted to send 125 million pounds at 25 cents and we sent only 56 million pounds. Then in the ninth year we contracted to send 50 million pounds at 30 cents and we sent 32 million pounds. Last year we contracted to send 50 million pounds at 30 cents and we sent 50 million pounds. We had about 20 million pounds left at the end of the contract period which the British would not take. There is still what I called the other day a little surplus which amounts to some 18 million pounds. After all, that is not very much cheese to have in Canada.

I do not think the evaporated milk figures are important except to the people who are selling that product. They do not represent a great volume and it would take quite a time to give them all. I shall not do so unless hon. members request me to give the details.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): Has the minister given any thought to looking for markets for our agricultural products along the Pacific? We have been shipping to the English market for one hundred years. In 1858 there were considerable shipments of grain from Upper Canada to Great Britain and that has been going on ever since. I would refer the minister to the Turgeon commission on grain which reported prior to world war II that the only part of the world where there was a demand for the surplus grains of Canada was along the Pacific. I just throw that out as a suggestion.

A lot of time has been wasted discussing the various angles of the agricultural situation. Hong Kong is a tributary to Vancouver. For fifty years we have been subsidizing ships that run to Hong Kong, and yet I think the returns will show that the people of Hong Kong before the war were buying bacon brought from Czechoslovakia or some place in Europe. No effort was being made by our Canadian people to develop a market in that British port. There are 80 million people in Japan and that country should provide a market for some of our surplus products.

I recall a contract that was entered into by certain people in Shanghai for the purchase of ice cream to be manufactured in British Columbia. This transaction was upset by the outbreak of war. There is a civilization developing over there which is becoming quite modernized and the people are acquiring a taste for bacon, flour, apples and many other products which we have in Canada.

An hon. Member: And cheese.