

much appreciate the constructive suggestion which was made, because information is all-important in this matter.

Honourable senators will appreciate that in a matter of this kind I am not in a position to debate in detail with honourable senators who have a very wide knowledge of the subject. I have answered as best I can as soon as possible, and if honourable senators are not satisfied with the sufficiency of the answer, I would suggest that they move to have the matter referred to the appropriate committee so that they can hear the explanation as is deemed desirable. I am sure that this House would give sympathetic consideration to such a motion.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, as this is a tremendously important question, I would suggest to the honourable leader that such a motion be made, and if no one opposite will make it, I shall be very glad to move that this question be referred to the Committee on Agriculture. When their report reaches this House we can go into a Committee of the Whole, and thus all members will be able to take part in the debate.

Hon. R. B. HORNER: Honourable senators, may I suggest that time be given to bring witnesses, such as shippers from Western Canada, before the Committee?

The honourable leader has been reading some figures as to the amount of stock which has been handled. In that connection I should like to say that on Monday last I was in Winnipeg with a carload of cattle from home, and at that time the Commissioner told me that since meat rationing had gone into effect cattle were off two cents and heavy calves were down three cents a hundred during all of last week. This applies to the whole of Western Canada. There is very strong complaint as to what the management of the Meat Board meant to the producer. That is what the honourable senator from South Bruce (Hon. Mr. Donnelly) referred to a couple of weeks ago. Apparently all the Government is interested in is securing the beef, regardless of what the producer gets for it.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I beg again to remind honourable senators of what they themselves must be cognizant, that I am not in a position to debate this subject. I have taken the first opportunity to present the statement handed to me in reply to the request of the honourable senator from South Bruce, and I have followed that up by suggesting that if that statement is not deemed sufficient we might proceed as the honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) has proposed.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Finish your statement.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I am through.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Do I understand the honourable leader is now going to move that the question be referred to the Committee on Agriculture?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I think the honourable senator from Alma should frame an appropriate motion, for I assume he will be specific as to what the motion involves—whether it is to cover the whole subject of meat rationing or the specific subject brought to our attention by the honourable member from South Bruce—in order that we may know what particular officials are to be summoned before the committee. I would suggest that the regular procedure would be for the honourable senator to give notice of his motion for the consideration of the Senate.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: In order to regularize our proceedings I would suggest that notice of motion be given setting forth in specific terms the question to be inquired into. Then when the motion comes before the House honourable members can express their views in regard to it.

Hon. Mr. LEGER: Honourable senators, it does not seem to me to be absolutely necessary that notice of motion be given. The subject-matter already has been debated in this House and we have had at least two speeches on it. If I am in order, I would move that the subject-matter now under discussion be committed to the Committee on Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Meat rationing.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: If the subject-matter can be specifically stated in a notice of motion, it would be the more regular course to follow. The present discussion has arisen on the calling of "Notices of Inquiries and Motions". The debate on the Address is to be resumed to-day and probably will continue for some time; there will be ample opportunity to proceed as I have suggested.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

APPOINTED

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved:

That the Senators mentioned in the Report of the Committee of Selection as having been chosen to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present Session, be and they are hereby appointed to form part of and constitute the several Committees with which their respective names appear in said Report, to inquire into and report upon such matters