

Supply—Agriculture

We were pleased to level off the consumption of butter and put more milk into the production of cheese. Coupled with this, the world price of powdered milk has increased. All in all, I think the dairy farmers are pretty happy about the way the dairy problems have been resolved, and they have resolved many of them themselves. It has not been entirely due to the government. The dairy farmers have been doing a great deal themselves and we appreciate this.

Mr. Peters: It is this 1 cent in which we are interested. I am quite sure Hector Arnold, the president of the cheese board, has been to see the minister on a number of occasions, and it is this differential between the 4 cents previously paid and the 3 cents now paid that they are interested in. Exports this year will be another 7 million pounds on top of the increase made last year, and the producers believe the additional 1 cent subsidy would allow the board to handle the storage of more cheese without cost to the farmers themselves.

The minister was correct in mentioning that there has been an easing of the problems of the dairy industry and that this has not been entirely due to the government, but I would urge him not to be too confident as there can be an explosion at any moment in the dairy industry because of the new developments taking place in sterile milk products and other aspects of the dairy industry, including the vegetable oil aspect.

In my humble opinion the minister should be prepared to give assistance to the various commodity groups in the dairy industry because before long, whether it is through the system of premiums for grade milk or not, there will have to be an equalization of the price paid to the producer for basic milk as a commodity. I suggest that the minister be sympathetic to the cheese producers, because if cheese production increases greatly there will be an explosion in the problem of storage.

I think it should be clear that the reason why Canadians lost their market in Britain was because the Canadian government was willing to buy that surplus and dump it on British markets to the embarrassment of marketing boards in that country. I think the minister should give more consideration to this board than to some of the other agencies because this board was spending its own money, the money of its own producers, to develop this market, and we should do all we can to see that its activities are maintained and expanded.

Mr. McBain: I think this is the proper item under which to bring up the question I have in mind. I feel the minister himself will be interested in this. I know that years ago he
[Mr. Hays.]

was a producer of Holstein cattle and I must say that some of the top production cows of Canada came from that herd. The other day a handbook came to my desk called "Farming in Canada". It contained 32 pictures and I am wondering what image would be given of agriculture in Canada if these pictures are published abroad. The first has to do with Holstein cows and the words below the picture read: "The Holstein will give eight quarts of milk a day". Well, we know that a quart of milk is two and a half pounds and if a cow milks 300 days a year this amounts to 6,000 pounds. If my memory serves me correctly our annual yield per cow is something like 9,500 pounds. I am wondering whether this booklet was produced under the authority of the Department of Agriculture and whether the minister has had a chance to scrutinize it, in which case I think it should be withdrawn.

In the same publication is a picture showing beef cattle in Ontario. Underneath, is the caption "Aberdeen Angus". These cattle have long horns on them.

An hon. Member: Texas Aberdeens.

Mr. McBain: I hear someone saying "Texas Aberdeens". Well, we know that for years Aberdeen Angus in Canada have been polled. I would say they are definitely shorthorn cattle.

Another picture shows a sow and piglets in Alberta. Well, we did produce one of the outstanding breeds. We had the Lacombe hog a number of years ago. This picture shows a sow with eight piglets. Unfortunately, she only has three faucets on one side of her feeding station; I hope she has three on the other side. No wonder these piglets look thin and undernourished. One is definitely a runt. The sow is not a big hog. I hope the minister will scrutinize these pictures and withdraw them because they will give a poor image of Canadian agriculture abroad.

Mr. Vincent: I have a short question to ask with relation to the Cheese and Cheese Factory Improvement Act. Is the minister in a position to tell the committee if there have been any requests rejected by the government under this act during the fiscal year 1963-64? I have in mind requests for the homologation of factories. Were any requests rejected by the government?

Mr. Hays: I do not know, but I would be pleased to look into this matter and let the hon. member know.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Having just returned to this chamber from my office I do not know for sure whether this subject has been discussed or not, but I think it is important that