

Supply—Agriculture

taken directly from Lindsay to Toronto and sold in Toronto. There is not any law we can make that will stop that, but the person taking them there could have taken them to the storage and got the support price from the board. However, he did not take them there. We do not go around compelling every person to bring eggs to us.

If the producers had set up an organization of their own, a co-operative or something like that, and then seen to it that those eggs went to a storage plant in Toronto or Lindsay or some place else, the price that is guaranteed by us would be paid for them.

Mr. Hodgson: In reference to that situation, I sent over some slips showing that eggs were delivered in Toronto by express. The farmer did not know what he would get.

Mr. Gardiner: But he did not deliver them to the storage. He delivered them right into the trade.

Mr. Hodgson: Your government was not buying eggs then; you were not taking eggs at the support price.

Mr. Gardiner: We were buying them.

Mr. Hodgson: And you did not for some time afterwards, either.

Mr. Charlton: This egg business is rather confusing, and I think we should look back at the minister's statement. He said it was possible for the producer, and he stated it definitely, to get 32, 33 or 34 cents a dozen. It is my understanding that until just recently the board was permitting 6 cents a dozen for the handling of eggs. The minister shakes his head; is that not true?

Mr. Gardiner: It may be 8 cents in some places.

Mr. Hodgson: But the minister said so in this house.

Mr. Charlton: I think somebody had better get some facts.

Mr. Gardiner: I just read you the facts. These are the prices.

Mr. Argue: It proves your act does not work.

Mr. Gardiner: It proves that the provincial governments do not pass the laws which are necessary to get the prices for the producers.

Mr. Charlton: The government is now taking the credit for the fact that some producers are getting as high as 38 cents a dozen, principally in Victoria.

Mr. Gardiner: I am not taking credit for that; it is a fact.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. Charlton: The minister is certainly implying it is the support price under eggs that is bringing about these prices. I can assure him it is not, because any dealer who wants to take advantage of the floor price under eggs would not pay any more than 30 cents a dozen. He is only guaranteed 38 cents, and he is allowed 8 cents for handling them. Therefore, would he pay more than 30 cents a dozen? If he does not want to put them through the board, sell to the government, he can pay 40 cents a dozen if he so desires. However, I suggest if any dealer wants to sell his eggs to the board and have a guaranteed price of 38 cents per dozen or, if they are oiled, 39 cents a dozen, then he will not pay more than 30 cents a dozen for grade A large to the producer. How can the minister say producers can get 32 cents?

Mr. Gardiner: I am not saying he can, I am saying he does. There is the price list as it is published for March 12, showing that he did.

Mr. Charlton: But that is not under the government price support act.

Mr. Gardiner: Well, we do not pay 30 cents a pound for hogs, either. We guarantee 23 cents, and they are selling at 30 cents. We set a floor price, and if the price goes above that we do not stop it.

Mr. Charlton: I am saying that any dealer who wants to take advantage of the support price of 38 cents, or 1 cent more if they are oiled, does not pay more than 30 cents a dozen. I will come back to cheese. The minister finally admitted that no permit is necessary. It is just a gentleman's agreement.

Mr. Gardiner: I did not agree to any such thing. You put that word out into the country that no permit is required and everybody will think they can ship it in here as they like. You have to get the consent of the government here, and you can call it a permit if you like.

Mr. Charlton: Well, one minister has said that no permit is required, and the other has said a permit is required. Then we have it from the Minister of Agriculture that if we say no permit is required everybody will be sending in cheese. If any cheese comes in within the next five years he will blame us for allowing the cheese to come in.

Mr. Gardiner: Oh, sure.

Mr. Charlton: I hope we can accept responsibility for any cheese that comes in next year.

An hon. Member: You do not need to worry about it.