

As far as the domestic consumption of pork is concerned, I would be even more drastic. I believe that in connection with many commodities this government should tell the people what they have to put up with in regard to what they eat, what they wear and what shelter they have. The people should be reminded that there is a war on; that if they do not put up with inconveniences of one kind and another perhaps something will happen to us and we shall have somebody placed over us who will see that we get very little of the extras we are getting now. Therefore, in connection with the domestic consumption of pork products I say the government should come out boldly and tell the Canadian people that we are not going to allow small shop hogs to be slaughtered and sold in the butcher shops, but that Canadians must acquire a taste for heavier pork. I believe the public would be receptive to a campaign of this kind, and the result would be that our supplies of fats would be supplemented, our coarse grains would be used up, and at the same time Canadian hog producers would make some real money. I believe this matter deserves the attention of this house, so that if I seem rather ponderous or appear to take up a great deal of unnecessary time in this connection, I make no apology whatever for doing so, because I am not one of those who in days gone by have taken up very much time in this House of Commons.

I come now to a short discussion of the meat situation. We still import \$2,000,000 worth of meat a year, but the big problem in connection with this natural product is the export problem. The relation of fat to beef has been partly dealt with during the last six months by the muddle in connection with the ceiling prices on beef. While this fuss has been going on, the cattle raisers have been holding their cattle in the feeding barns. As a result, the weight of these cattle has gone up, and in my opinion that is a quite satisfactory result, because we have been placing much heavier cattle on the market than was the case before the war. As I say, this result was brought about by the muddle in connection with ceiling prices, but I am hopeful that the dissatisfaction which has been expressed by the producers of beef cattle will result in the government bringing forward some sort of policy that will enable us to get away from rumour and gossip, and the black market.

Undoubtedly there was a good deal of truth in what the hon. member for Elgin had to say about the prevalence of a black market, and I notice that those who sniped at him, both in the press and elsewhere, found it difficult to enunciate any policy that would

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

avoid a recurrence of this situation. I agree with the hon. member for Elgin and with the press that once the government has put its hand to the plough in the matter of controlling the price of beef or any other commodity, it should at the same time control those people in the trade who violate the regulations. You cannot maintain a price ceiling without controlling those who have to deal with a particular commodity. It would not be a difficult matter to ascertain whether or not there is any truth in the accusations of the hon. member for Elgin. We have the mounted police in every town and city throughout the country; we have records of the hides taken off all beef cattle, so that we can tell whether a man slaughtered ten cattle in 1937 and 100 in 1942. In every village and town throughout the country we have investigators in the various departments of government; for example, I saw a question on the order paper the other day with regard to prosecutions in the town of Brockville. Let these various officials be charged with another responsibility, namely, that of running down all this bootlegging and these black-market activities. Take a firm stand in that connection, and we shall realize that we have an administration that is taking some action to control those who would violate its regulations. Never in the history of Ontario have so many cattle been slaughtered by individuals in small slaughter houses, which has resulted in great economic waste in connection with the by-products. That is a very serious matter. One thing is sure; these people would not be in this line of business if they were not getting a good profit out of it.

The other fact in the equation is that in the United States, which so vitally affects our economy, the average price for all kinds of agricultural products was 113, while ours was 87. This applies to a degree also with regard to live stock, though perhaps not to the same extent. We must make an attempt to meet part of the situation. Give the live stock producers a fair reward for their industry and you will soon eliminate any vestige of black markets. With the advent of the war the government seems to have entirely neglected the matter of trade and commerce. I say to the Minister of Trade and Commerce that he will be expected to give some report to the Canadian people.

I come now to a subject which I would say was rather smuggled into the budget. I hope to have time to complete my remarks on that before eleven o'clock; if not, we might run through to twelve o'clock with the permission of the house.