

*Supply—Agriculture*

1929 to 25 million pounds; remaining at this level for the next two or three years, hovering around 10 to 30 million pounds, but during the latter years of the thirties the level had gone up to well over 100 million pounds.

Of course, during the second world war we supplied a very large percentage of the British market, a significant contribution which all Canadian hog producers had the opportunity of making during that period. For instance, during 1944, Canada supplied 79 per cent of all Britain's bacon imports, and in 1943, 83 per cent. During the war years Britain's imports from Canada were running at over 50 per cent of the total virtually each season.

This was done through the method of annual agreements or contracts through the meat board of Canada and the British ministry of food. The figures during some of these years and particularly for 1943 and 1944 were very large indeed. One could examine the figures for 1944, for example, and see that our total exports of bacon and ham amounted to \$148 million, virtually all of which went to the United Kingdom. I would submit that this is a very large export figure, although of course British dollar restrictions have reduced it to almost negligible proportions since 1951. Thus we have had a most interesting and active export market, one that could bear looking into again.

In addition to the grading system which changed very much our quality of hog production, we have had the system of record of performance or advanced registry as well. This system has provided incentive, knowledge, and information to hog breeders, the people with seed stock upon whom the commercial producers would depend. It has indicated how the breeders could improve their stock in the best fashion. In 1929 the advanced registry system for hogs was started on an experimental basis. In 1934 the advanced registry board recommended the setting up of central stations for testing hogs. All of this produced effects which benefited the commercial producers in terms of improving the quality of pork produced and it served in the long run to assist in maintaining some of our export markets.

I have here the figures for the record of performance or advanced registry stations across Canada as of March 31, 1959. There were some 418 pens or units in use in the seven stations, each taking four hogs at a time. On this basis there has been a considerable turnover of testing groups under this system. I will not go into the figures of turnover in detail but it may interest hon.

members to know that in the season 1958-59 over 1,000 groups were tested in these seven stations.

In the last few years we have had a problem in Ontario. While government officials may point out that these stations are sometimes not running at full capacity, there is a definite trend toward overcrowding of these stations, particularly in Ontario. The figures I have obtained for 1956-57, for instance, indicate that in Ontario some 50 tests had to be turned down for lack of accommodation. In 1957-58, 52 tests were turned down, and in 1958-59, 70 tests were turned down. I should like to have more information on that subject. I believe this was at the last stage where breeders were turned down on these animals before they were sent to the station. It might be added that further discouragement came simply because of overcrowding and prevented a considerable number of breeders from entering their stock at the station in Waterloo, and having it tested.

The Canadian hog industry faces many definite problems, as does the advanced registry system. There is, for instance, the question of whether or not we should continue extensively testing purebred lines, or whether crossbreeding will become more widespread. To my mind, this question alone makes it essential that increased facilities be provided for record of performance and advanced registry, since pure breeds will continue to play a large part. I would suggest to the minister, and I hope he will view my request favourably, that the facilities be increased at Waterloo, or that a new station be built to accommodate the ever-increasing number of units going through each season. As advanced registry breeders in Ontario, we feel this is an important point in development, and dissemination of information for purebred hog breeders in that province.

As I mentioned before, the industry today appears to be in a considerable state of flux. This situation is brought about by many causes. One of these is the increased knowledge we have with regard to diseases and nutrition. Increased research on this subject has made it possible for much more efficient production, for greater savings in litter numbers, and greater enlargement of the whole physiological and nutritional aspects of hog production.

Production methods themselves have tended toward greater volume and efficiency. We have here what is probably an inescapable fact in that unit volume production of hogs will continue to increase. Hogs lend themselves to a pyramidal form of population growth. While one would not expect to see the same increase one finds in broilers, one