

has been carrying on a butcher business for years and who now finds himself in difficulty because the only type of hogs that he can get is, as the minister says, the off-grade hogs.

Mr. QUELCH: Last year I received a complaint about the grading of hog carcasses. This year I received a number of complaints about grading dockage. It has become very severe. I received one letter which said that a 740 pound hog had been paid for at the rate of three cents a pound. Could the minister explain what a hog like that is used for? I should have thought if it were used for anything it would be worth more than three cents a pound. Is it rendered down or used as sausage meat?

Mr. GARDINER: It would be rendered down. I am afraid I had more trouble myself with a hog of that kind recently than the gentleman who wrote the letter. I had one that I estimated weighed 800 pounds. I sent him in to the cooperative at Winnipeg and lost him altogether.

Mr. QUELCH: What happens to the hog?

Mr. GARDINER: I have not been able to find out what happened to that one.

Mr. TUSTIN: I should like to ask a question with regard to the deductions that are made on hogs below grade B. As the minister said a few moments ago the \$3 that used to be deducted has been wiped out under the new system. Is that in reality a fact? I am given to understand that in many cases where hogs are graded below B the deductions are greater than they were before. I am not certain as to whether there are as many grades now as there were before the present system came in. Apparently the government has set a basic price for grades A and B. What reductions are made for grades below B? If the regulations are not set by the government, who sets them, and are those reductions left entirely in the hands of the packing plants?

Mr. GARDINER: I am afraid I would not be in a position to give the prices for the different grades as they are established on the different markets, other than that the B1's on the Toronto market are, I think, about \$17.25 at the present time, while the B2's and B3's are about twenty-five cents under that figure and the C's are about \$16.60. I have the average prices for last week, as follows:

A	\$17 60
B1	17 20
B2	16 95
B3	16 95
C	15 95
D	15 70
Light	15 70

Mr. JACKMAN: Would the minister amplify the statement he made yesterday to the effect that to-day we are sending Britain as

much bacon and ham as she got from all the other countries of the world before the war. What was the total consumption of Britain in normal pre-war years? Then may I ask a further question. If Canada should be fortunate enough to send 900,000,000 pounds of bacon this year, would that have any effect on the four-year contract, which extends to 1947? Would that lessen the amount we might send under the present contract during the next three years?

Mr. GARDINER: The quantity consumed by Britain the year before the war began was about 1,400,000,000 pounds. Of course she is not consuming that much now; her people are rationed. I have not the exact figures before me as to the British consumption at present, and what part of that consumption we supply, though I could obtain them. The Americans are sending some, but the greater part is sent from this country. I understand that about sixty-two or sixty-three per cent of their hog products comes from Canada, but about eighty per cent of the bacon and ham is sent from Canada. The Americans are sending more of the fat type of hog in the form of pork than we are sending from this country.

On the other question, the answer is that it would not make any difference in succeeding years if we should send over 900,000,000 pounds this year. Under the new agreement which is being negotiated we would still supply 500,000,000 pounds next year, as a minimum; and if they required as much next year as this year we could send over another 900,000,000 pounds next year if we had it. I do not know whether the hon. member was in the house this afternoon when I corrected the statement I made last evening. I said I had been wrong in stating that final agreement had been reached with regard to the years 1946 and 1947. I discovered this morning that those negotiations are not complete, and that we are not sure of the quantities and prices for those years. As far as 1944 and 1945 are concerned, however, while I doubt if we shall send over 900,000,000 pounds this year, though we may come fairly close to it, even if we do we shall still have 500,000,000 pounds to send over next year, and anything more Britain requires in addition.

Mr. STIRLING: But still this is to be a four-year contract?

Mr. GARDINER: We are hoping it will be. We may have to make some adjustments; discussions are going on, but we are hoping that it will be a four-year contract.

Mr. JACKMAN: Could the minister amplify at all what may happen in 1946 and 1947? If he cannot say definitely that 500,000,000 pounds will be the objective, could he say whether it will be more or less than that amount?