

their grain through the Wheat Board and had not been forced to convert any grain into meat, this was the only year for quite some time where the Eastern livestock and poultry producers made some money in spite of extremely high feed prices.

Looking at the statistics of June 1st, 1961, we find that at this date for every 100 people living in the Prairie Provinces, over 80 hogs were kept on Western farms, whereas in the East there were only 20 hogs for 100 people. The figures for poultry are somewhat similar. In the Prairie Provinces 700 birds for 100 people; in the East 300 for 100 people. It is no wonder that this Western production, far in excess of local demand, must of necessity have led to the over-loading and depressing of Eastern markets. It is therefore not surprising that the Province of Quebec is always deficient in the production of meat and poultry, because producers although experienced and with modern large establishments, are under the constant fear of dumping of meat products on their local markets and are handicapped to go into full production.

We come now to the saddest part of our report. We would like to confine ourselves to the Province of Quebec, where farmers are probably worse off than in the richer Province of Ontario and even the smaller Provinces of the Maritimes with the exception of Newfoundland. We believe that out of the 85,000 farmers in the Province of Quebec, at least half will have to abandon agriculture or, if some can afford it, can maintain their farm as a homestead by taking jobs elsewhere. A few thousand farms are anyway so small that they cannot be considered as an agricultural enterprise. Others are so indebted and lack funds and equipment to produce pork or poultry, and the few dairy cows they possess cannot produce enough money for a living. However, there might be some help for those farms who do not produce much grain but still have reasonably good pasture. For those people, there might be some future ahead by going into the production of beef cattle, if the Government would assist these farmers to buy or rent neighbouring farm land for grazing of beef cattle and, furthermore, by giving them the possibility to buy good breeding stock for breeding cattle. There is no reason why beef cattle could not be produced as efficiently as on the mountainous ranges of Western Canada. The production of beef cattle does not need much investment for shelter and does not require much work from the breeder, so that he has the possibility to take part-time jobs elsewhere. The switch to beef cattle would also reduce the surplus of dairy products, which costs the government plenty every year.

Australia and New Zealand have, for many years, pursued a clever aggressive propaganda on many continents, to increase the consumption of lamb and mutton. They have recently opened kitchens in European countries to show the housewives how to prepare lamb as a tasty dish. Even in France, the gourmet country of the world, lamb enjoys great favour. We believe that there is a possibility, through active propaganda, to increase the consumption of lamb in Canada and even to export some, in view of our favourable geographical position. We have enough grazing land in Eastern Canada suitable for the raising of sheep.

The scientific progress in the last decade has shown its effect, particularly in animal husbandry. Until a decade ago, many smaller farms on marginal land still could make a small living by breeding and raising a number of pigs and maintaining a small flock of poultry. However, the impoverishment of the Eastern farmers, as explained before, has taken its toll. The newer scientific methods and the large capital needed for factory type production, caused the switch from the mixed family farms to large industries in pork and poultry. After all, the production of pork and poultry, also on a very large scale, does not require any farm at all and can even be more profitable on a