

*The Address—Mr. Harkness*

talk as there is about the price of meat. I am therefore going into the cost of pork at different levels.

In the matter of the cost of meat nearly everybody in the city blames the farmer. The farmer in turn blames the packer. There are not so many packers, so I have not run into any of them and I do not know whom they blame, but I have no doubt that they blame somebody. In any event, everybody blames somebody else; and the situation is that when the consumer buys a dollar's worth of pork or any commodity, he actually does not know how much of his dollar is going to the producer, how much is going to the processor, or how much is going to the retailer. I think the consumer has the right to that information, and that some effort should be made to give it to him. I will say something more about that later.

It is very difficult to arrive at any average cost of production to the farmer of his pork—of his raising it and so on—the cost to the processor and the cost to the retailer. However, I have attempted to do that on the basis of figures available from the dominion bureau of statistics, from newspapers and so on; and I think I have arrived at figures which are reasonably accurate. I am not for a moment saying that they are completely accurate, but I think they are reasonably accurate and reasonably close to the situation.

The first thing we need to do is to determine how much it costs the farmer, in an average case, to raise his pig. I am not going into all the figures involved in this matter. I am going into them only enough to indicate how I got them. Take the cost of breeding and feeding the sow. I have made the assumption that the farmer will receive two litters a year from his sow, and that he is able to market from these two litters an average of seven each, which is better than the national average; in other words, fourteen pigs. Now, as to the cost of feeding the sow for a year in this area, I have taken the figures for Ontario and the Ottawa area, which are not less than 25 cents to 30 cents a day. Therefore we take as a rough cost \$100 a year to feed the sow, and \$4 is a share of the cost of maintaining the boar. From these figures you get \$7.42 per pig when it is born. You have to add on another 8 cents per pig at least for the cost of oxide of iron and worming powder and the other things that have to be given to young pigs; therefore you get roughly \$7.50 a pig.

According to the experiments of the university of Alberta experimental farm it takes on the average—and I will not go into it now, but I would refer anybody interested to the pamphlet called "Swine Production, Alberta" put out by the faculty of agriculture

of the university of Alberta—450 pounds of grain or its equivalent to make a hundred pounds of pork. Therefore to bring your pig up to 200 pounds it will take 900 pounds of grain or its equivalent. Today No. 1 feed oats are selling in Toronto for \$61 a ton, No. 2 feed barley for \$63.50 a ton, and supplements range from \$5 a hundredweight up. Therefore the cost per pound of feed to the farmer in this part of the country is certainly not less than 3½ cents for the 900 pounds. That would give him a total of \$31.50 a pig. The total amount of money actually paid out for feed, not for anything else, just money actually paid out for feed, would be \$39. On October 6 the price of a good quality hog, according to the livestock and meat trade report, was about \$30 a hundred pounds. We will say his pig dresses at 155 pounds, which would be the average. He would get a return of \$46.50, leaving him \$7.50 to cover all his expenses and overhead in connection with it, the cost of repairing his fences and his buildings, the cost of transporting the grain to his farm and the pigs to market, the labour of his hired man if he has one, or to pay for his own labour if he has not one. Therefore the farmer gets for the year's work, 365 days a year, \$7.50 per pig that he markets. Of course, the more pigs he has the more total profit he will have; there is no question about that. However, I will leave it at that point. I think these are very favourable figures. I doubt whether a very large number of farmers could hit them.

I telephoned to Canada Packers in Hull and found that last week, which would be the time on the basis of the prices of October 6 that a pig would be coming on the market, the price for a pork carcass with the head on, the kidneys in and so forth, was 38 cents a pound. The dominion bureau of statistics told me that the figure at Toronto for the same carcass was 36½ cents. However, I took the 38 cents local price. That means that the young pig when it was dressed would be down to 150 pounds. You have a shrinkage of 5 pounds from the hot weight dressed as compared with that on which the farmer is paid. The packer would sell that same carcass say for \$57, which gives him a margin of \$10.50 for his work in killing, cutting and refrigerating, distributing it to the butcher and so forth. In other words he gets \$10.50 for having the pig in his hands a comparatively short time after killing. To cover his labour costs, his overhead and so forth the farmer got \$7.50 during the same week in October, and both got their profits out of it.

When we come to the price at which it is sold by the butcher the thing is more difficult still. However, I got from the Department of Agriculture the last dominion cutting test, which shows the percentage of the pig which