

another time at \$3 or a little more. Now in the American markets lamb is worth 16 cents a pound, and they are marketing lambs at Buffalo and other points in very good condition and at good prices. Under the low-priced conditions prevailing for grain, and the low prices for cattle, it seems to me that we could turn a good deal of the feeding-grain into profit. Let us look at the beef market. We will know that a finished steer has brought a reasonably good price all along, whereas the unfinished steer has brought the lowest price on the market, sometimes as low as a cent and a half per pound. I am calling attention to this fact because I think there is a tremendous field for development along that line. It may surprise the members of this committee to know that of the 1,250,000 cattle that passed through our inspected abattoirs every year, less than 10 per cent are of good enough quality and finish, or are large enough in size for export as chilled beef, indicating what a tremendous loss the farmers are suffering. When I hear of the low price of grain and of hay, I think of the excellent opportunity there is for finishing off these cattle and for securing to the farmer a larger price for his grain. Take the dairy industry: We have 3,500,000 cows that average less than 4,000 pounds of milk, but we have cows that have made records of 32,000 or 33,000 pounds, just about eight times as much. Last year dairy cattle produced \$32,000,000 of wealth, and it seems to me that if we could feed these dairy cows on the cheaper grains there would be an excellent opportunity for the farmer to take up mixed farming in preference to grain producing. I would like to ask Mr. Maharg whether these conditions prevail to the same extent in the districts in the West.

Mr. MAHARG: So far as our province is concerned, the stockman, that is the man who is producing beef, is complaining just as bitterly as the grain producer. I think that is the general situation throughout the province. The man who is producing beef is in just as hopeless a condition as the grain producer, possibly a little worse in many cases, though it is hard to be worse. The position of the man who is able to get dairy cows is not so bad. But for the information of the committee I may say that the West is trying to diversify as quickly as it possibly can. I would not like the committee to think that the western farmers have not been seized with the necessity for it. They are gradually drifting that way as fast as they can, but it is almost a hopeless proposition when they cannot secure a little surplus. The government of Saskatchewan has been assisting along that line for years and it is continuing to assist; but in view of the vastness of the country, it is impossible to supply every man with a herd of dairy cows in a year or two. You cannot secure them even if you try to get them, let alone convince every one that they should have them. But the trend is that way. So far as the opportunity for finishing cattle is concerned, I quite agree with the hon. gentleman. But that country has only discovered lately that they can produce the necessary crops for finishing steers properly. You cannot finish cattle with dry feeding; you must have more succulent feed. The climate is changing, and even as far as my own home town is concerned and further north, we are producing those feeds quite successfully, corn and sunflowers as well. We are gradually drifting that way, but it is absolutely impossible to do it all at once. What we are asking is some measure that will make it possible for us to carry on until that gradual evolution has taken place, for it must be gradual. There is a difficulty even to-day in the marketing of dairy produce, and the outlook is not very hopeful. We have heard complaints about oleomargarine and Chinese eggs coming into the country. The markets for dairy produce have to be built up, but, as I have said, we are gradually drifting that way as fast as we possibly can. I think that the members from the different western provinces will agree with me in that statement.

Mr. CAMPBELL: I come from a district where there is mixed farming, and I received a letter this morning stating that eggs are selling at 16 cents per dozen and butter at 18 cents per pound. The farmers there who are in mixed farming

[Mr. J. A. Maharg.]