

Mr. SENN: There is one more point I should like to bring up before this item passes. The minister referred to it a moment ago. Since the new regulations came into effect and a \$3 premium is being paid for grade A bacon and \$2 for grade B the local butchers have been practically put out of business. I know the minister has had representations made to him by the local butchers because they find themselves unable to buy their hogs and pay the premium owing to the hogs not being graded. Representation was made to me from one particular county asking that a local grader be provided if a hundred hogs or more could be found in that locality for grading purposes. If that were done the farmers could sell their hogs to the local butchers who in turn could sell to the local trade in the smaller towns and villages, and the farmer would enjoy the premium. In nine cases out of ten if the farmer does not get the premium he will not sell to the local butcher. Has the minister given any thought to any scheme which would help out the local butcher in this way? As conditions are now it means that they are being practically put out of business. The trade is all being driven into the hands of the packing houses. It is all very well to say that we need the hogs for bacon for Britain. It seems too bad that the Canadian people have to eat the lower grades of pork all the time, either lights or heavies or other classes which can be purchased and which would not get any premium in any event.

Mr. GARDINER: We did give consideration to that matter when the present plan was set up. The provision we made was that wherever an average of fifty hogs are being slaughtered each week—

Mr. SENN: In one plant?

Mr. GARDINER: In one plant at any one place. If two or three butchers could make arrangements to have their hogs slaughtered at one place the government would provide an inspector who would check the hogs. There must be some limitation somewhere. It is not possible to have government inspectors for half a dozen a week or ten a week, and the point at which we made the division was fifty. We say that where there is an average of fifty hogs a week being slaughtered we make provision for inspection. There are some places where it is most difficult even to carry out that arrangement, and that is because of the nature of the plant that is provided in which the killing is done. It is impossible to have killing done just in any place, out in a shed that is put up on some farm or in some small place where the facilities are not such as would take care of the sanitary conditions. These

hogs must be properly inspected and proper care taken with regard to disease before they are turned into the packing plants where food is being provided for so many people. Some care has to be taken with regard to that. Apart from that I think the matter has been dealt with fairly satisfactorily. In the last few months I have found some complaint in Ontario. I have had butchers come to me, half a dozen at a point, and discuss the matter, but most of the difficulties that have arisen have been corrected, to a degree at least.

After having said that I will say that I think most butchers in most parts of Canada are getting their supplies in the same way that they always got them, and that under the ceiling prices which are arranged in the different parts of Canada they can buy possibly mostly off-grade hogs, and can pay a sufficiently high price for them under the ceilings to be able to carry on their butcher business and cater to the kind of trade which they have in their district. I quite agree that in places where there is a packing plant and where there is a number of people who kill in a small way roundabout it is more difficult for those men to carry on than it is in some other sections; but again it is easier for those men to make arrangements to have their hogs killed in the packing plant if there is one in their vicinity. Therefore the matter is taken care of in that way. One difficulty that I have run into, and where it has been almost impossible to make satisfactory arrangements, is where persons desire to kill in plants whose facilities are such that the packing plants would not allow those hogs to come in for processing because of what might happen in connection with their whole food products.

Mr. SENN: I was not making a plea for hogs that are going into the packing plants after having been slaughtered. I fully realize the difficulties that are in the way. It is very difficult to get government graders to go out to all these small places, but I had a proposition put up to me the other day. I do not know how the minister would consider it, but this is what it was. Some local man who is a fairly good judge of hog carcasses or the agricultural representative in the county could go around one day a week to eight or ten of those houses that are slaughtering for local consumption, and if he grades those hogs and shows that they are entitled to a premium as A's or B's that could be accomplished without very much difficulty. There are usually men in each of those places who are perhaps just as good judges of hog carcasses as the government graders. They could be hired very easily as part-time inspectors, say one day a week, to go around and grade the hogs. If that were done it would be very much to the benefit of the local butcher who