

there is some reason behind the criticisms; but I venture to say that if one boy from every farm had an opportunity at some time to work in a packing plant for a while he would know more about the preparation of live stock, how to feed it and put it on the market than he does now. He would know more about the handling of it in connection with slaughtering for his own use and otherwise. Not only is every farm organization familiar with the fact that it would be of assistance to the farm home in western Canada to have someone who has had that experience, but farmers are also anxious that there should be a closer association between farm organizations, farmers in general, and the packing industry as it affects themselves than there has been up to the present time.

We hear a great deal of discussion from my hon. friends over in the group across the floor to the effect that all these plants ought to be run by the state.

An hon. MEMBER: Cooperatively.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. Well, the best kind of cooperation I know of is the kind we are getting at the present time, where the farm boys are going into the plants and assisting in the running of them, getting to understand the running of them; and if at any time in the future they do take the notion that they would like to have cooperative plants run by their own people there will be at least some of them who will have had the necessary education to run such plants. Personally I am of the opinion that cooperatively run plants, whether so run as among farmers, or run as between the businessman and the farmers, are superior to any system of state ownership and control that could be set up either in western Canada or in eastern Canada to handle the problem. I am therefore a little surprised to find that two of the leading advocates of state ownership, control and operation of packing plants object to the fact that farmers are cooperating now in running them in western Canada, and no doubt intend to do so.

Mr. WRIGHT: As usual, the minister has set up a straw man and knocked it down. This group has never advocated state ownership of packing plants in western Canada; he knows that. We suggest that they should be run cooperatively for the people who are raising the stock and those who are consuming it.

Mr. GARDINER: The straw man always goes down hard enough to knock you straight up.

Mr. WRIGHT: What is more, I did not suggest that farm organizations in Canada should not cooperate in seeing that labour from the farms was made available to these plants in the season when it was not needed

on the farms. That was the wise thing. But I do not think it is a wise thing that the people of western Canada, those engaged in agriculture, should be asked to supply men when they are needed on the farms, when there are other industries which are less essential from which this labour could be drawn. That is all I wish to say.

Mr. MITCHELL: It is all very well to say that; it looks nice when *Hansard* gets back home. But I would be glad if my hon. friend would tell me where we should get these people. That is the question I want to have answered. Do not pose the question; give me the answer.

An hon. MEMBER: No answer.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: There were three other questions which I wanted the minister to answer. One was with regard to the quantities of meat spoiled that had to be destroyed, another was with regard to sheep, and the third was with regard to the bacon market in Great Britain.

Mr. GARDINER: The quantity of beef that had to be destroyed?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Beef and pork.

Mr. GARDINER: This question was up on my general estimates earlier in the session or on questions across the floor—the question with regard to a certain amount of meat in cold storage in Quebec city. I have in my hand a report made by Inspector G. A. Rose, assistant chief veterinary inspector, who went and made the inspection. This is dated January 4, 1944.

National Harbours Board,
Ottawa, Ont.

Gentlemen, on instruction from the Ottawa office I went to Quebec on January 20 and visited the cold storage warehouse of the National Harbours Board, Quebec.

Mr. LaFrance accompanied me while I examined the following meats which had been defrosted to enable examination:

- 2 veal carcasses.
- 1 lamb carcass.
- 1 mould boneless beef.
- 1 bologna sausage (visking).
- 1 meat loaf.
- 1 beef front quarter.
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I was informed by Mr. LaFrance that these meats had, until forty-eight hours prior to my visit, been stored in room 11A since September 15, 1943, at a temperature of 22° F.

On examination the meats were found to exhibit heavy mould formation on serous and cut surfaces.

In my opinion, if the meats examined were representative of the entire stock that had been stored in room 11A, treatment of the meats should be undertaken to render them fit for use as food since these moulds are generally superficial and not harmful.

The treatment necessary would include defrosting, removal of the mould by scraping and subsequent washing with vinegar or dilute acetic acid.