

## Farm Prices

in the price of live stock products. That revival began about 1922, and continued right up until 1928 and 1930. The real reduction in farm prices came in 1931.

In other words the prices during the later twenties were more nearly comparable with the prices we had during the latter part of the war and immediately following, than were the prices for the first two years of the twenties.

I have another table here I should like to place on *Hansard*, without reading the whole of it, which demonstrates the point I have been making. However I should like to read a few of the prices which prevailed in 1931, and compare them with the prices in 1919.

This table shows that in 1919 the price of oats was 78·9 cents, and in 1930, 58 cents. It dropped to 29 cents in 1931.

Barley stood at \$1.07 in 1919, and at 56 cents in 1930. It dropped to 28 cents in 1931.

Butcher steers stood at 13·66 cents in 1919 and 10·16 in 1929, with a drop to 8·97 in 1930 and to 5·93 in 1931.

Bacon hogs in 1919 stood at 18·7 cents; in 1930, 12·32 and 1931, 7·39.

The cheese price in 1919 was 28·1 cents; in 1929, 18·6; in 1930, 16·4, and in 1931, 11·7.

These were the butter prices: In 1919, 57 cents; in 1930, 30 cents; in 1931, 24 cents.

And for eggs: In 1919, 63 cents; in 1930, 45 cents; in 1931, 34 cents.

The complete table follows:

	PRICES AFTER LAST WAR								
	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1928-1930		1931	
Oats.....	78·9	99·3	58·4	47·9	40·9	65	58·8	58·8	29
Barley.....	107	161	95	63	54		71	56	28
Butcher Steers, per lb. c	13·66	12·89	7·58	7·36	6·95	10·16	8·97	5·93	
Bacon Hogs Bl. (live) c	18·70	18·90	11·72	12·63	9·76	12·27	12·32	7·39	
Cheese.....	28·1	26·7	18·4	17·1	19·2	21	18·6	16·4	11·7
Butter.....	57·4	58	42	35	37	39	30	24	
Eggs.....	63·3	66·8	51·1	45·1	47·4	48	45	34	

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Where do those prices prevail?

Mr. GARDINER: Fort William for oats and barley; Toronto for butchers' steers and bacon hogs, and Montreal for cheese, butter and eggs.

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister is not giving the all-time low which came a little later.

Mr. GARDINER: No. The prices which I have quoted for 1931 are reasonably comparable with those that prevailed for a continuous period of years following. They were lower in 1932 and 1933 and they were up a little in other years, but there was no considerable rise in price until we got close to this present war.

Mr. WRIGHT: Are those prices to the consumer?

Mr. GARDINER: They are wholesale prices. I wanted to place these figures before hon. members this morning because some are inclined to think that we went through the last war with rather high prices and then immediately following there was a slump. That was not the case. I recite these facts in order to show that in a bill of this kind it would be impossible to determine at this stage when a slump in farm prices is going to come as a result of our going through a transition period

[Mr. Gardiner.]

from war to peace. It would be most difficult to put times or dates into this particular legislation. It is phrased in indefinite terms as is indicated by the title, which is, "An act for the support of the prices of agricultural products during the transition from war to peace."

In order that there may be available at all times the statistics and facts which represent the conditions during this war, in order that it may be possible to compare those facts and figures with those prevailing immediately following or for some time following the war, this bill provides for the setting up of a board to be composed of three members. It is my intention to recommend to the government, and I make the suggestion to the house, that we should content ourselves for the time being with the appointment of a permanent chairman and take two officials of the department and make them pro tem members of the board.

Our intention is that the board shall immediately begin to study the relationship of the conditions which now exist to the prices which now exist and that all facts with regard to matters of that kind be made available for use immediately the war is over. If I am the minister at that time it is my intention to appoint two permanent members of the board to act with the chairman when the operative part of section No. 9 is brought into effect.