

class bacon hogs, but the practice is one that calls for a certain amount of skill and technique. The average man in the West, accustomed to doing things on a large scale, is going to have his difficulties, even with the right type of hog, until he develops a practice that will mature those hogs at the right weight, at a certain age.

Hon. Mr. SMITH: What is being done, Dr. Barton, to inform the public in the West?

Dr. BARTON: A great deal is being done. The provincial departments and our department are very active in this work. Contact is made with the farmers in every way possible, and of course they now have a very good conception of what is required.

Hon. Mr. SMITH: I understood you to say they were not familiar with the best practice.

Dr. BARTON: Well, that can only be overcome by a process of education. My thought, after going through the West, is that they have problems out there calling for examination and study.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: It is more expensive to raise the proper type of hog. You must keep them nearly a month longer, for one thing. In Montreal they will take a hog for bacon at 250 pounds, but out in Saskatchewan they are more strict. If a hog weighs 231 pounds you lose a cent and a half. I took a truck load of hogs down and they were a little heavy, so I had them run around a bit and then reweighed, and I got a cent and a half per pound more. I am speaking now of good bacon hogs that are a little heavy.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: It is not good to let these selects have very much exercise?

Dr. BARTON: I would not say that. It depends upon how they are cared for. You can certainly pasture hogs and produce good bacon. Most of our hogs in the East are pen fed, but they do produce hogs in the East under pasture conditions.

The CHAIRMAN: I think exercise does them good.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: If we are through with the question of hogs, I should like to ask a few more questions from Dr. Barton with regard to cattle.

The CHAIRMAN: We have had Dr. Barton on the witness stand for an hour and a half now. We must not ask too much of him, but if he cares to continue, all right.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Have you any information, Dr. Barton, regarding the number of feeders that are taken from the West and finished in the Eastern part of Canada?

Dr. BARTON: I cannot give the actual number, but I know it is a way down this year as compared with last year.

Hon. Mr. POPE: There has been a lack of feed, a short hay crop.

Dr. BARTON: Yes, and possibly a lack of money.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Has it been profitable?

Dr. BARTON: I should say it has been profitable in the past. Of course, it is one of those hazardous ventures.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Is it a practice that should be encouraged?

Dr. BARTON: I think it is.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: What is possible in the way of encouragement?

Dr. BARTON: Well, one thing we have done this year that we think might mean some encouragement, is the securing of a concession in railway rates on cattle for export, from eastern feeders to the port.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: It would be a benefit to central Canada feeders more than to the Maritimes.