

of the pig industry in Great Britain, and in my opinion it would take officials of the government a very considerable time to analyze it properly and come to parliament with it. What will concern us, however, is what the British government may decide to do by way of legislation based upon that report. That action has not been taken as yet, so it is more or less idle for me to even speculate on what it may be. I think the committee might keep in mind what I have already said, that Canada gets whatever the British producer gets by way of protection, if you like to use that term, up to the amount of 2,500,000 hundredweight per annum. All authorities agree, and I think my hon. friend will concur in that opinion, that it will be some time before we achieve that production.

Mr. SPENCER: Can the minister tell us Great Britain's imports now?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The government must have a pretty definite idea of what will be contained in the report, when the Minister of Agriculture starts a campaign based upon it for greater hog production. I must congratulate him on the courage he displayed in advising farmers to produce more hogs, at a time when they were worth only two and a half cents a pound at the point of shipment, and now when the price has fallen to two cents. I think he was showing a youthful optimism that perhaps he thinks now might better not have been shown, because really there is nothing in article 6 to place before the farmer to warrant his going into the production of hogs more extensively. Talk about faith! I have not seen such faith even in Israel as has been shown by the Minister of Agriculture with regard to this as yet unknown British hog commission report. The British people may gag at it themselves; there has been a good deal of criticism overseas with regard to these restrictions on food imports. Perhaps I might ask this question: Was this the kind of assistance the Canadian and British hog growers really wanted and asked for? My information is that they did not want a quota at all because it was too complex in its workings. Look at the way this is working with us. Formerly we had unlimited opportunities; we could ship a billion pounds of bacon and ham if we had that amount to export, but now we are limited to 280,000,000 pounds. While in 1919 Canada exported nearly that amount, we are far from it now.

Mr. STEVENS: If I may just correct my hon. friend, we are not confined to that amount. We are guaranteed free entry of that amount on the basis enjoyed by the hog

[Mr. Stevens.]

producer in Great Britain, but we have unlimited opportunities beyond that in competition with the outsider. My hon. friend will see the distinction there. I think he will at once agree that to be guaranteed that amount for five years is a very valuable thing for Canada.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I thought the quota was the very essence of this agreement. If we are permitted to jump the quota we will then be back where we were before. I appeal to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and to the Minister of Agriculture; really, this is working in the dark. Even if this were good I would take the same attitude towards it that I took with regard to the preceding section. Every restriction that was removed in connection with cattle was all to the good; everything in this section that facilitates trade is so much to the good, but we do not know just what it involves. It is worse than groping in the dark. I have endeavoured honestly to get to the bottom of it, but so far have only managed to find out that the quota is the basis of the whole thing. Now we are told that the quota will not hold, that you can jump the quota any time you like.

Mr. BROWN: I was visiting a rural community the other day, and I was told that because of the very enthusiastic speech in which the Prime Minister visualized ten million hogs in Canada, the farmers in that district were going immediately into increased hog production. I do not think either the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Trade and Commerce would venture the assertion that there is anything in this agreement or outside it, no matter what is contained in the report submitted to the British government, that would justify any farmer in immediately going into increased hog production. It is true that at the moment we are groping in the dark as far as the actual terms are concerned, but I think we must admit that since the 280,000,000 pounds allotted us far exceeds anything we have exported in recent years, there can be no immediate prospect of this agreement inuring to our benefit. Certainly there is nothing in the agreement to warrant any farmer taking immediate steps to increase his production.

The fact of the matter, Mr. Chairman, is that the circumstances that have prevented our supplying the British market in larger measure than in the past must be corrected by other means than those embodied in this agreement. We have been told that the difficulty in the past was lack of uniformity in the product, and lack of a continuous supply.