

that there should not be any ceiling on cattle, and as a matter of fact there is neither a ceiling nor a floor. Neither is there a ceiling nor floor on hogs, though there is both a ceiling and a floor on pork and beef. So that before cattle can get into the position that we buy them at the floor price, they must be in the form of beef.

I should like to offer a suggestion to the hon. member for Lethbridge. I am not stating my own idea as to the solution of the difficulty, but I have talked the matter over with the men in Alberta whom he has quoted; I have discussed it in the city of Calgary, and I think these people are convinced that this is the correct plan. I suggest to the hon. member that he go back to Alberta and convince those people living in the vicinity of Lethbridge, particularly those whom he has quoted this afternoon, that the advice they have been giving in connection with the marketing of cattle in Canada does not suit the conditions that prevail on at least ninety per cent of the farms in this country. He should convince them that there should be some variation of the plan of setting floor prices under beef and, in accordance with that floor price, a somewhat different arrangement for a floor price under cattle; that is, not an actual floor price under cattle but the price that would result from the floor under beef. I am quite certain that if this is done we shall not experience some of the difficulties that have been experienced in the past in connection with marketing.

It has been said that the policy which has been followed over a period of years has resulted in great losses to the farmers. Well, I happen to have here the prices for the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 on three different markets, namely, Toronto, Winnipeg and Calgary. Since we are speaking of the Alberta position, probably I should take the Calgary market. The same is true, however, proportionately, on the other markets, as we go farther east across Canada.

This table shows the figure for the last day of the week in each of the weeks from January to the end of May. I shall take only the first week of each month, in order to give an idea of what has happened. In January, 1942, at Calgary the price of beef cattle was \$9.25 a hundredweight; in 1943 it was \$10.50, and in 1944, \$11.35. There is not any indication in those prices to show that there was any loss taken in the first week of 1944 as against the first week of 1943. But in order not to pass up that month, without covering the other weeks, may I take the third week. The figures show that in the third week of January, 1942, the price was \$9.35; in 1943 it was \$10.50, and in 1944, \$11.25. Those are the

[Mr. Gardiner.]

prices for good butcher steers, the type we always take as a basis for prices. Some would be higher, and some would be lower than that.

Mr. BLACKMORE: They are handy-weights?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. Then, these figures show that on February 3, 1942 at Calgary—that is the next month—the price was \$9.25; on the same date, 1943, it was \$10.75, and \$11.15 in 1944.

In the first week of March, 1942, the price at Calgary was \$9.25; in 1943 for the corresponding week it was \$11.50, and in 1944, \$10.85. This figure represents a drop in the first week of March, 1944, of sixty-five cents a hundred-weight. Then, coming down to April, 1942, we find the Calgary price in the first week at \$9.75; in 1943, for the corresponding date it was \$11.65, and in 1944, \$11.15. Again we find a drop of about 50 cents in 1944 as against 1943. Coming down to May we find that on May 4, 1942, the price at Calgary was \$10.25; in the corresponding week for 1943 it was \$11.35, and in 1944 it was \$11.30. In other words, by that time we were up on the top step in the floor price.

These figures show, further, that on May 11, 1942, the price at Calgary was \$10.25, whereas in 1943 on the same date it was \$11.65 and in 1944 it was \$11.30. Then, coming down to the third week, beginning on the eighteenth, the price at Calgary in 1942 was \$10.50; whereas in 1943 it was \$11.35 and in 1944 it was \$11.35. We are back on exactly the same floor we had in 1943, and we have exactly the same price in 1944 as we had in 1943.

I have not the prices for the Calgary market for either to-day or yesterday, but I do know that on May 22 the price at Toronto was \$11.00 to \$12.25 in 1943. This year it is \$11.75 to \$12.50. In Winnipeg on that date it was \$11.25 to \$11.75, and this year it is \$11.75 to \$12.00. So that the price this year, when you get up on the top level of the floor, is just as much as or even a little higher than a year ago. That no doubt is due to the fact that the ceiling is a quarter of a cent higher than it was prior to the arrangement made in May of 1943.

That is the history of the beef situation, with this exception, that we have bought a great many cattle in the form of beef.

Mr. TUSTIN: Would the minister put the remaining figures on the record?

Mr. GARDINER: I have the figures for several months, and for each week in each month. Perhaps I might be permitted to place them on *Hansard* without reading them.

The CHAIRMAN: With the unanimous consent of the committee, that may be done.