

REPORT OF CHILLED MEAT COMMITTEE

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industry are not satisfactory, and the testimony given before the Commissioners shows conclusively that the want of a steady market, free from extreme fluctuations, is the principal cause which is affecting prejudicially the ranching, and farming industry throughout Canada and retarding to a great extent the development of the whole country.

There is no doubt that the number of cattle and hogs throughout the West is not in proportion to the area of land taken up, and the increase has not kept pace with the development and settlement of the country; this is largely owing to the enormous fluctuations in price and consequent uncertainty of being able to dispose of stock at a price that will even cover the cost of production; many ranchers and farmers have to a great extent gone out of the stock business, owing to this cause; they have become disheartened and given up all attempts to bring their farms and ranches to the highest producing state as regards stock raising, and have in many cases confined their attention almost entirely to the production of grain to the neglect of mixed farming. The ill effects of such a course are obvious, and the injurious results on a country depending mainly on farming are very marked, and are undoubtedly being felt throughout the Dominion.

In support of the above general statements, we beg to refer to the evidence given before the Beef Commission, and also the evidence taken by the Pork Commission, the whole tenor of which, as far as the evidence of ranchers and farmers is concerned, goes to bear out these conclusions. It will probably be sufficient to give a few specific instances. In evidence taken before the Beef Commission, Manitoba, Mr. John W. Packer who has lived at La Salle for 25 years, in speaking of the price of beef cattle said:

"They are offering 23 cents and 3 cents for beef, and there is no man that will raise animals for that. To raise beef at that price is suicidal. To-day there are large farmers who used to keep a large stock in that country, now they have not even a cow. There is ten times the population and not one-tenth the stuff here that there was 25 years ago."

Q. You state that as a fact that the farmers are going out of the business.

A. Yes.

Q. Give the names of some of these farmers in your municipality of Macdonald.

A. I do not think that there is a single stock farmer in the whole of that district now. I am in it still unfortunately.

Evidence of Kenneth McIvor taken at Brandon on 1st and 2nd August, 1907.

Q. The Commissioners will want to report as far as they can on the propriety of the Government considering certain proposals they may make; can you be of any assistance to them?

A. The question is a very wide one. If we got fair value for fat stock