

*Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement*

if they have only stockers and feeders they will not receive as good a price because their bins have not been emptied. If we were to wait another month or two, until spring opens up, and until a time when stockers and feeders would have emptied out the bins we would get a better price.

The CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. member to confine himself to the subject under discussion.

Mr. DONNELLY: I am talking about the price of live stock.

The CHAIRMAN: There is an item referring to cattle.

Mr. DONNELLY: Very well; with reference to prices for bacon and pork may I say that we know the price of bacon is set in England. However I want to say to hon. members that we did have a market in England for all the bacon we could sell; we always had that market. For years we had an open market. There is one point, however, which must be mentioned, namely, that in the English market we have never been able to get anything better than the Baltic price. Do hon. members suggest that Canadians cannot raise as good pork as is raised in Denmark or other European countries? Of course we can. Then, why do we not receive as good a price? We do not receive that price because of the way in which the pork is handled at the abattoirs. Our farmers go to the abattoirs and sell a thousand hogs as No. 1 bacon, but those thousand hogs are not shipped out under that grade. Possibly the abattoir will ship 2,000 as No. 1 grade. The poor bacon that is shipped to England sets the price. I would recommend that the Minister of Agriculture make an investigation as to why our abattoirs are allowed to ship out more No. 1 hogs or No. 1 bacon than they buy from the farmers. That is the difficulty so far as the price of bacon is concerned.

May I say that United States bacon does not compete with ours. We ship bacon to the United States, because the American hog is not a bacon hog. It is a fat, short hog which is raised for its fat, and is not produced for bacon. I repeat that they do not raise a good bacon hog, and we do not compete with them. All hon. members have seen coming from the United States pork on which there have been three or four inches of fat. That pork is found in the lumber camps, and it is a fair sample of the kind of pork raised across the line. That is the kind of stuff that would be coming into Canada. If we cannot compete with pork of that kind we are not farmers at all. Canadian farmers are not asking favours from any-

[Mr. Donnelly.]

body. We can compete with the world, but we do want markets in other countries and fair market conditions.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): It would appear unnecessary to answer the hon. member who has preceded me, because I believe the answers to his observations may be found in what he has said. However I must not leave unchallenged the statement that no farmer in Canada would admit he had received more for bacon or meat because of the imperial trade agreements. I tell him that practically every two or three months of the eighteen months to which I referred previously I received double the amount that farmers in the United States had received for a similar type of bacon.

The hon. member attempts to tell the committee that nothing but a coarse type of bacon would come from the United States. I do not believe the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) said that. I realize that in the United States pork can be produced more cheaply than it can in Canada. Whether or not the hon. member for Moose Jaw will agree, I think every other hon. member realizes that pork can be produced more cheaply in that country. In the western states the farmers can feed grass when it is forty degrees below zero, and the stock can be fed corn.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Where in western Canada can they feed hogs outside at that temperature?

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): There are several states in the United States where hogs can be fed outside practically all the year.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): On grass?

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): Yes, on grass, corn or rattlesnakes, if you like. In the United States hogs can be produced more cheaply than we can produce them.

The hon. member who preceded me has said that farmers in the United States do not produce good bacon. In making that statement he shows that he does not know much about the bacon trade. I realize it is hard for a man to be a doctor of everything, but surely he will admit that for years the Swift company in the United States was one of our greatest competitors on the British market. They produced as good export bacon as we did. I note what the hon. member said with respect to bacon shipped from Canada to the United Kingdom, and I realize that there is a certain amount of truth in his observation. However I suggest that it is unfair to charge the abattoirs with not shipping good bacon, because I believe some