

The CHAIRMAN: It is the intention of the Committee to go into the question of marketing conditions at the different stockyards, I think. One reason why it seems to me we should go into it is that there is a great deal of misconception among the drovers. Drovers have written me recently making complaints which I feel are not well founded, but in the interests of all concerned it might be well to have the differences discussed before this Committee. If the Committee agrees with my views in the matter, we shall have before us representatives of the producers and the drovers, and after they have presented their case I think we should hear representatives of the live stock commission men. The commission men have associations, and there would be no difficulty in getting in touch with them nor with the owners of stockyards, but I am not clear as to whom we should have here to represent the producers and the drovers, who have not any associations. I know personally of some people who could give us a great deal of information, but I should like the advice of the Committee to-day as to what method we ought to pursue in selecting persons to come here and state their views. I think the producers and drovers ought to be given every opportunity to present any grievances they think they have.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, producers were invited to attend before a committee of the other House, and many of those invited were not connected with any association.

The CHAIRMAN: I think there is no association of cattle producers, anyway.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: Most of the complaints that we hear all over the country are about the charges at the stockyards. We want to find out where the trouble is and clear the atmosphere.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: I live 180 miles west of Winnipeg, and it costs 65 cents per hundred pounds to put our stock on the Winnipeg market. That seems to be a high charge.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: Mr. Chairman, do you think we shall have time to go into this whole thing carefully before the session ends? I am particularly interested in the West, and we could not get our people down here this session, I am afraid.

The CHAIRMAN: I have given some thought to this matter and that is one reason why I urged that we confine ourselves largely to the beef cattle trade. I should like to go fully into that, if we can. We were told by Senator Dandurand the other day that the session is likely to last until June, and if we are here that long we shall have ample time to go into this question. Of course, if we do not finish our work this session we shall have a record of our proceedings and be able to continue next session. But I should prefer to finish this session.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: I wonder if Mr. Rothwell could tell us whether the price that we receive for our cattle in the Old Country has any effect upon the price that obtains in the domestic market for cattle of similar quality. What I have in mind is this, that if we are selling only .5 per cent of our cattle in Britain, and if the price received there has no effect upon the price received in Canada, then the market conditions and costs of selling in this country are matters of very great importance, seeing that we have 99½ per cent of our cattle to be disposed of here.

The CHAIRMAN: It must be remembered that in arriving at that percentage of cattle sold abroad, the total cattle population of the country was taken into consideration, and that includes milk cows, calves and cattle of one and two years old. Of the beef cattle that are ready to go on the market, the percentage that is shipped overseas is much larger than .5. In some years we have shipped far more cattle than we did last year; there have been years when we have sent 140,000 to 150,000 head of cattle to the United Kingdom.