

very good feeling when, upon delivering your hogs, you find that some of them are three pounds overweight and you are docked three dollars, or at the rate of a dollar a pound.

Mr. GARDINER: That is all gone.

Mr. BURTON: That is all gone, but it is something we had to contend with, and some of us farmers do not forget these things so easily.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: The grading is tougher now.

Mr. GARDINER: The government did not do that.

Mr. BURTON: We were docked at that rate, and not so long ago. I could still hunt up the old slips to show you.

Mr. GARDINER: That was under an arrangement entered into between the producers and the packers; it was not a government arrangement.

Mr. BURTON: Yes. But here is the point. We have to operate under these arrangements as they vary from time to time. There is still quite a loss to the farmer if he cannot get his hogs off at the right time. They are graded as they go through the packing plants. I quite agree that grading should take place and I am content that this inspection should go on, but the point I would bring to the minister's attention is that we are graded so fine when we produce our hogs and deliver them to the plant. A railway man told me at one time that if it continued the way it is now we farmers would soon be sending our hogs to market by parcel post, because it was almost impossible to get them fine enough for the grade line, and consequently we would be shoving them off individually instead of in lots. But when consumers of meat go to the butcher shops or the meat-handling establishments, where can they ask for the thick smooths, the extra heavies, the B-1's, the AA's, and so on? We take our cut when we deliver a hog which weighs a few pounds overweight, but neither I nor any other consumer has the privilege of stepping into a butcher shop and saying, "I want a slice of bacon or a cut of ham from an extra heavy hog". That is a condition of things to which we object, and object most strenuously. We accept our cut in an endeavour to get the standard of bacon up to what the department says it must be so as to carry on our export trade.

Mr. GARDINER: I am sure the hon. member does not want to misrepresent the matter. There are different grades of bacon in the butcher shop. I believe there is a difference of \$3 or so between top grades and seconds.

Mr. BURTON: Quite true. You have side bacon, different kinds of bacon, and different

[Mr. Burton.]

kinds of pork that you can buy. In the case of beef, which is finished up to a certain degree, you have red label beef and blue label beef, and again you have the ordinary butcher variety, as one may say; but as regards pork there is no such choice, and the consumer has not that benefit. That is one of the points I wish to bring to the minister's attention.

Mr. CARDIFF: With reference to the minister's statement yesterday, who sets the difference in price between the different grades of hogs? At page 3103 of yesterday's *Hansard* the minister made the following statement:

Following the discontinuation of the packers premium of \$1 per head on A grade carcasses as at April 10, 1944, a differential of 40 cents per 100 pounds between A grade and B1 grade carcasses was agreed to, with prices paid for other grades to be determined by, and based on, actual value.

Who sets that actual value?

Mr. GARDINER: There is really no established price on all the different grades of hogs. The price of heavies may be a little higher at one time than another because there is a scarcity of them and a demand for that type of pork. They may vary, but there is no definite set price that must be paid for heavies in any particular market. If there are too many heavies the price will be lower, and if there are not enough heavies it will go up somewhat. The variation takes place, but there is no hard and fast rule. As a matter of fact, competition on the market retains the position pretty well. People buying for a particular market bid against one another, and the tendency is for prices to be much the same as a result of the experience they have on the market. But there is no one who says that such and such has to be the price.

Mr. CARDIFF: I do not think the minister has answered the question. I am still at a loss to know how the price is set. That is what I am trying to get at.

Mr. GARDINER: The basic price of hogs since the war started has been pretty well set by the agreement with Britain which takes from seventy to eighty per cent of the product, and that has set the floor price ever since we entered into these contracts. Early in the war, when there was a scarcity of pork on this market, because we were taking great quantities off and sending them to Great Britain, the price of pork sold in Canada was much higher than the price obtained for the pork that went overseas, and the price on this market therefore averaged somewhere between those two prices. Since we have had price control we have set a ceiling for pork, not for hogs but for pork, and we have gradually raised the price of the British contract until to-day there is not a very wide margin