

the government that in case the price of beef fell below a certain level, live cattle would be purchased by a government agency? If so, how many grades and what grades of beef did the agreement cover? What government agency was given the authority and responsibility to buy such beef? At what price was the purchase to take place? On what dates did prices descend to that level? On what date was beef purchased, by whom; at what price; how much beef on each occasion; what grades of beef; how much of each grade, and on how many occasions did beef prices dip to or below the point at which purchases should have been made by the government in accordance with the agreement? In return for waiving the right to export beef, were the beef producers promised by the government that the government would protect the position of the beef industry in the United States market, by selling Canadian surplus beef? If so, how much beef was sold in the United States by the Canadian government between August 31, 1942, and March 1, 1944; what grades; how many of each grade; on what dates; and what agency made the sales? From whom or what agency did that agency purchase the beef? At what price? And at what price did it sell the beef to the United States? Did the government agency at any time purchase any red or blue brand beef in Canada between August 31, 1942, and March 20, 1944? What federal government agency has authority to implement the resumption of exports of live stock to the United States?

Before going on with these questions, of which I have several more, I want to say that it did not seem to matter a bit whom you asked in the government for details as to the position with regard to beef. No one seemed to know; and always the people who had the authority were the people whom you were not asking. In other words no one could do anything, nor could you find out who had authority to do anything, or who had the responsibility. These questions are designed to elicit the facts in regard to these matters.

Now I resume my questions. What federal government agency has power over beef marketing machinery? Is it the meat board? If so, why did the meat board neglect to buy for weeks, until beef feeders began to lose heavily and prices came down? From all I can gather the whole marketing situation with respect to beef simply deteriorated and almost collapsed in my constituency this year; and considering what the government had promised and what the farmers had a right to expect, the situation was reprehensible.

The next question is: Is the meat board the policy-making body in respect to beef?

If not, what body is? Again is it true that in February, 1943, packers were scouring southern Alberta for fat ewes, and offering unheard-of prices? Is it true that in the same area during the corresponding period of 1944 fat ewes were not salable? Why should conditions like that exist in a supposedly controlled market? The beef and mutton producers in my constituency had the impression that when government control went into effect it meant government control, not a slipshod, half-hearted control that did not control anybody but the producers. Did not the minister say some time in February that we could not send live stock to the United States and sell them to better advantage than in Canada? I believe he did, but I want to know whether or not he actually did make that statement.

Then I come to this question: Have we reached the point where if boats are late or other transportation facilities are held up or congested, it is necessary to hold live stock in feed lots? I may say in commenting on that question that if feeders of cattle ever imagined that their ability to sell their cattle depended upon the possibility of ships being available, surely they would never have taken the risk of the terrible losses into which they could be forced. If such is the case, then do you not think weight restrictions should be modified to prevent loss to the feeders? And do you not think that in the light of increased cost, the ceiling should either be raised, or cattle and lambs should be subsidized, in the light of the precedent with respect to hogs?

Is it a recognized principle of the government live stock agencies that spreads are necessary in the winter feeding of live stock? If so, would it be your opinion that one and a half cents to two cents would be a reasonable spread, under present conditions? Do you not think steps should be taken to encourage the maintenance of live stock production at its peak, as a vital contribution to the nutrition of Canada and her allies, and to develop a reservoir of meat products and breeding stock for the post-war years?

Again, what was the price below which it was agreed fat cows were not to be allowed to fall during January and February, 1944? And is it true that fat cow prices in southern Alberta during January and February, 1944, ranged between \$6.50 and \$7.50 per hundred-weight? Is this figure not definitely below the price agreed upon? Was the price of fat cows during January and February and early March of 1944 considerably below the price for fat cows during the corresponding months of 1943? When these cows came off the grass in September, 1943, was the price at least eight and a half cents a pound?