

fied as a duckling, and the producer who sends a duckling to a foreign market is obliged sometimes to certify that the duckling is not a duckling, although it is in fact a duckling within the meaning of the regulation. This is merely an instance of the inadequacy of the regulations. I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution of the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) asking that the regulations be reviewed and revised by the committee on agriculture.

Mr. H. A. MULLINS (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I have not taken up very much of the time of the house this session, but I feel that the farmers of my constituency are being very unfairly treated in this matter of grading. The resolution seeks to amend the act. I would say, do away with the hog grading act altogether. It is vicious, it is unnecessary, it is absolutely against the farming interests of the country. It is in favour of the packer and not in favour of the agriculturist.

We have throughout Canada a number of hog graders. To my mind that service is an absolute waste of money. Let these agricultural students go back to the land and make money in other ways than by grading hogs for the farmer in the stockyards for the benefit of the packing industry. The total amount of money paid out for hog grading in 1933, according to the information I have received from the Department of Agriculture, was \$43,540. If you would turn that money over to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), and I say this advisedly, to be used in putting out pure bred animals for the farmer, instead of wasting it on these chaps who are absolutely useless in any stockyard, you would be doing more good for the country. Is it not an insult to the farmers of western Canada to say that they do not know the type of hog that is demanded in the British market? The farmer knows better than these hog graders just what is wanted. I had occasion at one time to come from western Canada with four thousand hogs, when hog grading first started, and I have never touched a hog since because all the profit I got out of those four thousand hogs after they graded them in the city of Toronto was \$47. I have never bothered with the hog industry since.

If hog grading in the early days did serve a purpose in teaching the farmer what type of hog was wanted for the British market, it is absolutely not needed now because the farmer knows thoroughly the type of hog that is being asked for.

Take the farmer's hog in the stockyard. The hog is put through three or four grades, and

if you follow those hogs on to the rails in the packing plants you will find that a good many of them are converted into Wiltshire sides and are going over to the old country market. So the farmer is the loser. It is the farmer who is suffering, and instead of asking, as this resolution does, that the act be amended I would say that it be wiped out altogether in the interests of agriculture. When I say that, I am not speaking without experience; for fifty years of my life have been spent on the stockyards in Canada. I have watched this business of hog grading going on. Now that I represent an agricultural district in this house I am speaking on behalf of my farmer constituents when I ask the Minister of Agriculture to wipe this hog grading off the books altogether and give the farmers in western Canada a chance.

Mr. A. E. MacLEAN (Prince): I do not know whether I caught correctly the remarks of the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) but I understood him to say that the egg inspectors were not in the employ of the government but in the employ of the commission houses. My hon. friend nods his head and says that that is correct. If that is the case, I think we should have an explanation from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) because I am of the opinion that there are egg graders who are employed by the Department of Agriculture under the regulations of the Dominion government. If that is not so, we are sadly astray in our view of the situation.

I am not opposed to the grading of agricultural products, but I do know that there is some dissatisfaction regarding the egg grading regulations. I do not say that these regulations are not perhaps in the interest of the farmer himself, and undoubtedly they are a great protection to the consumer; but still there seems to be some difficulty over the country storekeeper who takes in eggs and reships them to an egg grading plant in one of the larger centres.

If the Minister of Agriculture speaks to-day I should be glad to have him clear up that point as to whether or not the inspectors are in the employ of the government.

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I should like most emphatically to deny the allegations made by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) that the men engaged in hog grading at the different live stock yards throughout the country are bosom friends of the packers, that they are in league with the packers and are working directly against the farmer. I do not think that any