

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Another portion of the Speech from the Throne for which I am thankful is as follows:

The deep sympathy of Canada is with all who have been bereaved, and with those who have suffered impairment of body or mind, imprisonment, privation or want.

It is very proper that we should think of those whose sacrifice has been so great.

Another part of the Speech which interests me is as follows:

The maintenance of long-term markets for our primary industries is receiving close attention. The continuing need for foodstuffs both at home and abroad will ensure, for some time to come, a heavy demand for the products of our farms and fisheries.

I want to take the Government to task on this question of long-term markets. Coming from Western Canada, where the farmers' hog production has, in my opinion, decreased to not more than 25 per cent of what it amounted to last year, I am frightened at the suggestion of long-term markets. I believe that we have missed the market, that we have lost millions of dollars. I maintain that had the Government adopted the right policy, the farmer would have received up to 20 cents a pound for dressed pork. But practically nothing was done. There was a bonus of 15 cents a bushel given on all the barley grown. The honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) spoke of income tax destroying industry. I know a farmer who produced \$2,000 worth of pigs. He said he had worked from 5 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night at this most disagreeable task only to find when it was finished that all he was earning was income tax. So he got rid of his pigs. The value of the pigs was all consumed in excess profits tax.

If the Government had been sufficiently farsighted, I claim there would be no need for meat rationing to-day. There would have been an abundance of meat for consumption in Canada, and plenty for shipment to Europe. If the farmer had received fair treatment, it would have been a simple matter for him to produce hogs. The situation in regard to beef is somewhat similar. I regret that the honourable senator from Peel (Hon. Mr. Marshall) is not here. If he is available, I think I will engage him to sell my cattle in the future.

I listened to the speech by the Leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Robertson) when he spoke of the number of cattle that were being cleared through the yards. The honourable senator from South Bruce (Hon. Mr. Donnelly) suggested that, when there was a shortage of meat, the Government undertake

the supervision of buying. That would encourage the feeding of animals. Now any other business in which men are engaged, such as manufacturing, is generally done under contract. At least that is the case with respect to most of the commodities the farmer has to purchase. The manufacturer bases the price of the goods on cost plus his profit. But with cattle it is altogether different. Cattle are not like goods that can be packed away in a warehouse. You may go ahead and hire help and feed your cattle, but they must be sold at the proper time to make any profit. Otherwise, when you go down to sell your cattle you find the market bad. Incidentally, I should like someone in the Government to tell me why hogs dropped 25 cents last week. I think I can tell you why. It is the usual situation. Farmers like to have their pigs come in April so that they may have time to fill out; therefore, as a result the bulk of the hog production goes to the market at one time. At such times the packers may not be buying, and the price is down; but at other times, when the hogs are not coming in, the price will pick up. Then when the rush is on again the price goes down once more. This is what the farmers are complaining of, and have been complaining of for years.

I mentioned once before in this Chamber the method of weighing live stock. One honourable senator said it was impossible to criticize the method of weighing because the scales were all automatic. On my way home I mentioned this to a shipper. He said: "That is all right, but a cane shoved into the scales made a difference of 300 pounds on three beasts I was shipping. When I complained of it and went out and watched the weighing, I got 300 pounds more."

I recently brought a carload of cattle to Winnipeg, 34 head, and they brought me the enormous price of \$1,565. That is an average price for meat, I would say, of about ten cents per pound. The Government apparently expects the hard-working farmers to sell their beef for ten cents a pound and then go to the butcher shop and pay 40 cents a pound for whatever is available. You will need an inspector in every farmyard, and where the farmer has any spunk the inspector will need an armed guard. Why should the farmer give his stock away and starve himself?

The difficulty of getting cattle weighed is one of the reasons given for inability to clear the yards. What happens is this. The cattle are taken out in the yard after they are fed. There are several buyers for one company, and they are on a more or less competitive basis. Each buyer is trying to buy cattle