

in the Canadian House of Commons on March 3, 1944, the time of the temporary suspension of meat rationing:

"That decision (to ship beef to the United States) was not reached as a result of a discussion which took place on this side of the line only. It was a decision which resulted from discussions between the government of Canada and representatives of the government of the United States. It was thought inadvisable for example, that the United States should import cattle from Canada and then lend-lease on equal poundage of beef to Great BritainIf anyone is going to give or provide, under Mutual Aid to Great Britain, beef which is purchased in Canada, then it ought to be the Canadian government and not the United States government that does it. Therefore the position is this. There is a complete understanding between the United States and Canada..... The United States people understand the reason for it. They are in agreement with what is being done."

These remarks of the Minister of Agriculture point up the anomalous position which would arise if Canada began selling livestock to the United States. Relations between Canada and the U.S. during the war have been on a strictly cash basis. Canada has never received a penny under the U.S. Lend-Lease scheme, has paid for everything she received from the United States. (And Canada is the United States' largest cash customer, Canadian imports from the U.S. having more than doubled (during the war). The U.S. has paid for everything she received from Canada during the war. But both countries have set up similar wartime schemes for aiding their allies -- the United States has the Lend-Lease plan, and Canada the Mutual Aid plan. Each country has made large commitments to provide food to Britain. It would be an extremely strange situation for Canada to sell livestock to the U.S. (even if it were available) and at the same time have the U.S. Lend-Leasing other meat to the United Kingdom - especially when the United Kingdom has indicated a willingness to take the Canadian surplus.

However, in a House of Commons debate on May 23, 1944, the Canadian Agriculture Minister said: "If our production, increases to the point where the Americans can take some of our meat, and we are extremely desirous of that taking place, I do not think there is anyone on this side of the line who will have any desire to prevent that meat from getting into that market."

On March 27, 1945, Mr. Gardiner said: ".....when the peak in (cattle) delivery was reached last fall, not only did we approach Washington but we also took the matter up with certain packing plants in St. Paul, Minnesota. We asked then whether or not they would take delivery of a stated number of cattle per week over a short period of time, in order to relieve the Winnipeg stock market. The plants were overcrowded in Winnipeg. We received in reply from the co-operation in St. Paul, a telegram....saying that it would be impossible for them to handle these cattle, and advising us to keep them on this side of the line...At the present time our plants are not fully busy with live stock coming in, and for that reason I would say there would be less likelihood than there was last fall of anyone asking that we should ship our live stock to the United Kingdom for processing of meats on their way to Britain."

The time to which Mr. Gardiner referred was during the rush period last fall; at the present time British needs (and through Britain come some of the requirements of the liberated areas) require all the surplus beef and pork which Canada can make available.

Drought conditions in the Argentine and Australia have resulted in cutting shipments to the United Kingdom, and increased British needs