

ing population, will provide the best market for Canadian cattle. The rancher must look a long way down the trail; he must plan ahead, because the calves of today produce the beef of three years hence. Meetings are being held in many places, the whole situation is discussed intelligently, and the resolutions presented are all to the effect that, for the long-distance welfare of their product, the ranchers must have the American market.

If one asks a man on the street if he thinks the embargo placed by our government against cattle going to the United States should be renewed, he will say, "Oh, no". He does not want to see a scarcity of beef in Canada and he does not wish the price to the consumer to soar to inflated heights. But in my opinion that result would not necessarily follow. There must be some control over the volume admitted to the market in the United States.

Judging by the tone of the resolutions, I am convinced that the cattlemen would be satisfied if the meat board would buy a certain quota of live cattle at Canadian prices, ship them to the United States and sell them at the American prices, and either use the profit for the welfare of the industry or, better still, divide it amongst the producers in proportion to their sales during the year. That arrangement would allow the producer of beef to get an increased price for his product—a spread of probably \$20 to \$25 on the average—and would not create a scarcity for our own domestic requirements, and certainly should not influence the domestic price.

One other objection that is sometimes heard is this: How would we fulfil our commitments to Great Britain if the United States markets were opened? There is some doubt as to what may happen to the British contract, but let us assume that it will be carried out. The answer to this objection is provided in the statistics found in the Canada Year Book, which are to this effect: In 1929 Canada's cattle population was 8,375,000, and in 1945, only five years later, it had increased to 10,758,000 head. Even though the slaughter was almost double what it had been in previous years, the cattle population in this five-year period increased by two and a half million. The increase was brought about by better prices; and when prices are good, the cattle are better fed, and more are produced. Canada can produce enough cattle to supply the home market, having regard to the estimated immigration, higher standard of living and greater domestic demand, and at the same

time have four or five hundred thousand cattle for export each year.

In closing, honourable senators, may I enumerate the advantages which would flow from the opening up of the American market for Canadian cattle. First, the cattlemen, who are well informed, desire to get a quota in the American market. Since the Chicago yards are only four or five hundred miles from the centre of the ranging district, it is much easier to ship stock that short distance than it is to send it 3,000 miles over land and sea to the British market. At a large ranch in southern Alberta, the McIntyre ranch, a careful record of sales has been kept. They shipped before the war several carloads of prime beef to Britain, and when all the large sheets were made up it was found that the price received was ruinous. Their manager says: "In normal times the British market has never been of much use to us, and it is not likely ever to be of use." In this chamber is a man who was one of the very first in Canada to ship cattle to Britain—I refer to the honourable senator from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Mullins). He has been shipping cattle since 1878. I asked him this afternoon if he had ever made money by shipping cattle to Britain. His answer was: "No; because of the rough passage over the North Atlantic and the damage done to the cattle, heavy losses are sustained; and I can truthfully state that the logical market for our Canadian cattle is to the south of us." Britain will buy cattle where she can buy them the cheapest. We here cannot compete with the cattlemen of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Australia and New Zealand, because their ranches are close to ocean ports, and because their cattle are out on the green grass nearly all the year round.

The second point is that the people of the United States want our cattle. Mexican cattle are shut out by the quarantine. We in Canada are short of feed, and orders have come from as far as California for feeders and stockers to be fattened in the corn belt or from the product of beet sugar factories. The abattoirs in the United States want our prime beef. According to recent conventions, they are willing to accept at a very low rate of duty not 225,000 cattle but 400,000 cattle, and 200,000 calves instead of 100,000. The people of the United States consume a great deal of beef, and as the most we could ever ship would be less than 3 per cent of their total consumption, their farm bloc is not likely to object very much to that small quantity.