

I would suggest that we do not produce more and more hogs until we can see what the effect of the agreement may be on hog prices. Those countries nearer to the British market will learn more quickly the condition of the bacon market, and we do not need to scurry into the production of more hogs, thereby probably sagging the market still lower.

We have in Canada a low farm commodity price, a condition such as we have never known before, a condition which affects not only hogs and hog products but the entire list of farm commodities. In fact, Mr. Chairman, never since Adam was a boy, as the old saying goes, have hogs been as cheap as they are today. Yet the government is not only contemplating but has actually entered into a campaign for greater hog production. I make that statement, notwithstanding what has been said by my good friend the minister. I came back on the train with some of his officers, and I have been reading the newspapers which latter certainly indicate that that was the purpose of their meetings in Saskatchewan. I believe the government would do well to be a little canny in entering into one more crusading campaign looking to more hog production, for fear they make the situation worse. Time enough to get excited when we see how the trade arrangement works out. In the meantime all we can do is to look on, and continue steadily with our own operations—not jumping in and jumping out—but continue steadily with our program of always growing some hogs for the market, to the extent of the feed and water supply available and the prevailing prices. By that process we will hit it right sometimes, at all events. But jumping in and jumping out, you may miss it both ways, miss it at every jump. I would strongly advise against any such policy.

May I refer to the answer given yesterday to the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown):

Mr. Brown: Is there any suggestion in the report that they might put a tariff on foreign hogs?

Mr. Weir (Melfort): Before the commission went into session a suggestion was made by certain associations in the old land that a tariff should be put on against even the dominions, the pig producers of the United Kingdom to have preference over all. However, I do not think that that is recommended in this report.

Well, I sincerely hope not only that the minister does not think it, but that he is quite sure it is not recommended. But I wish to draw it to the attention of the committee that there is in the old country a very definite desire on the part of the pig association, or whatever the official name is, to have a duty

[Mr. Motherwell.]

levied on foreign hogs and also on the hogs of the dominion. There is no question about that.

May I ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), if there were any other organizations, departmental officials or anybody who supported this idea, either before the hog commission or before the economic conference here in Ottawa so that we may know just where we stand in respect to this matter; and why a quota was selected instead of a small tariff, such as apparently the pig growers in the old country really desired?

May I also ask the Minister of Agriculture—the Minister of Trade and Commerce will excuse me directing my question to the Minister of Agriculture, who was after all the first to divulge that he had the report; I quite understand he may have got it that morning and not had an opportunity of telling his colleagues—if there was any discussion before the commission that he is aware of, indicating that other organizations or associations or individuals were also desirous of having a duty placed upon bacon and hams in the United Kingdom?

Mr. STEVENS: Canadian associations or United Kingdom associations?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My question included all. Whether it was before the commission in Great Britain or before the economic conference here in Ottawa.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I do not think we are in a position to state what confidential recommendations were made in reference to it.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Well, Mr. Chairman, that is the answer we always get. Anything that transpired at our own economic conference cannot be told, but we are told what transpired outside, before the commission in Great Britain. Well, I suppose if that is all that I can get, it is all.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I quite agree with the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) that it is absolutely useless to enter into a detailed discussion of this matter, because we do not know the nature of the legislation to be passed in the United Kingdom upon the recommendation of this commission. I would like, however, to direct one observation to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I have read the digest of the recommendations of the commission, and to my mind it does three things, besides setting up very elaborate machinery; first, endeavours to increase the price both to the producer in