

Agricultural Products Act

had 18 million pounds going into skim milk powder, last year we had 62 million pounds. Where we had 8 million pounds going into ice cream, last year we had 25 million pounds.

There is only one reason, Mr. Speaker, why there is not more cheese being produced in Canada. That is because there is approximately 150 per cent more milk going into these other forms of production at the present time than there was in the years when we were producing these greater quantities of cheese that are being talked about. Milk has been going from cheese factories to canning factories. Everyone in the province of Ontario—and they probably know more about it than anywhere else—who is associated with the dairy industry knows that the reason why there is not more cheese going to Great Britain at the present time is that those who sell their milk to canning factories to go into cans are getting more for it.

Having said that, I only want to repeat what was said last night, namely, that Great Britain is buying her cheese from Australia at 24 cents a pound, and she is paying us 30 cents a pound for it. Yet in spite of the fact that she is paying us 30 cents a pound for it, it pays our farmers better to put it in cans than it does to put it in cheese. That is the reason.

Mr. Harkness: Are we milking more cows now than we were three years ago?

Mr. Gardiner: If you and I milk all the cows we have, there will be a lot more milk in the country than there is at the present time.

Mr. Harkness: That is not answering the question. Are we milking more cows?

Mr. Gardiner: That is answering the question. There were three good farmers with me today at lunch. They all farm in Saskatchewan. They have spent the last three months in England, where they were born. They have been there since November, and are now on their way home to commence their farming operations again this spring. They told me why they were not producing hogs this winter. They told me why some others were not producing hogs this winter, and yet some of my friends here say it is because they go to California. I have lived on a farm in western Canada for a long time, and I have many more opportunities to go to California than most farmers. I have been there once in 1917, and I could name on the fingers of one hand the farmers in the community where I live who have ever been in California. The farmers of Saskatchewan have not enough money to go to California.

Mr. McIvor: Too busy.

Mr. Gardiner: Somebody says "too busy".

Mr. Harkness: You had better tell that to the member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid).

Mr. Gardiner: I am telling it to everybody in the house.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): That is mighty decent of you.

Mr. Gardiner: I want to say to the members of the house that if they were to land in Regina tomorrow—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Was it not the high income tax?

Mr. Gardiner: I will tell you in a minute. If you were to land in Regina tomorrow—my friend, the member for Calgary West, knows this is correct—

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): I landed there in 1886.

Mr. Gardiner: His father used to be mayor of Regina about the time I went there. I know that he knows the conditions around Regina. I know that he knows that everyone who has ever got off the train at Regina, and has asked to see a farm, has been taken out to see the Williams farm. I think he will agree with that. The operators of that farm are about the only farmers that I know who can live in the Saskatchewan hotel; they are the only farmers that I know who can go to California every winter if they want to. But they did not make their money on the farm. They made their money before they came to Regina, and I do not think they are even citizens of this country. Men who go to Regina, get off the train and go out and look at the Williams farm, have the idea that they have seen Saskatchewan farms. They have not seen Saskatchewan farms. There is not another farm like the Williams farm anywhere in Saskatchewan, and everyone who lives in Saskatchewan knows that.

As a matter of fact, the last time I discussed the matter with the Williams people there were thirty-six farmers farming the land they had, and the men who are living on that land and farming it are more or less under the instructions of the owners of it. Everyone who goes out there and talks to those people, and sees that they live at the Saskatchewan hotel, is inclined to think that is the way farmers live. The Williams people would be the first ones to tell you that is not the way farmers live in Saskatchewan. Farmers in Saskatchewan, who are real dirt farmers, who are producing wheat, producing hogs and producing cattle, put in twelve months in a year right on the farm, the same as any other farmer does, and if they do not they do not stay on the farm very long.