

that his idea of cooperation does not agree with that of some of the rest of us. I am quite certain that we farmers and all our farm organizations are prepared to give the packing plants all the cooperation the minister speaks of under the present circumstances, but we regret we did not have leadership coming from him in trying to bring about cooperation when the packing plants were making the greatest profits in their history while the farmers were receiving almost nothing for the things they produced.

Mr. GARDINER: When was that?

Mr. BURTON: To go back to that, it was when the Minister of Agriculture was premier of Saskatchewan.

Mr. GARDINER: No; in 1932 I was leader of the opposition. Your party was in power in Saskatchewan at that time.

Mr. BURTON: We hear this talk about cooperation now when we farmers are already overburdened and have little to cooperate with. But when there is talk of cooperation to ensure that the farmers may share in the wealth they produce, too often the talk of cooperation is missing. However, that is not what I rose to say.

The hon. member for Vegreville might think I am making a pre-election speech because I really rose to express my appreciation to the Minister of Agriculture for the information which he has given us under this item. He has given us much clearer information than did the Minister of Labour, who left me up in the air; I could not tell, after he got through, whether or not women in the packing plants are getting equal pay with the men for equal work. The Minister of Agriculture did a better job because I at least understood some of the things he told us.

I am going to make another statement to which some hon. members may take exception. If the prices we farmers are receiving for our beef cattle to-day had been received during the years gone by, there would have been little if any complaint. Only twice in the forty years that I have been on the farm in the district from which I come have there been such handsome returns from the production of beef cattle as there are to-day.

Mr. EVANS: Perhaps you did not raise the right kind.

Mr. BURTON: Both of those times were times when we as individuals and as a nation had to pay a tremendous price. Why is it only in war time that we can get a decent return for the products we produce on the farm? That is what strikes us farmers. In between these two wars there were times when you could produce cattle and keep your head above water. But it was only in these two wars

that, taking all costs into consideration, the farmers could get a good price for their cattle.

In the discussion which took place this afternoon between the minister and the hon. member for Lethbridge, one thing which I did not think the minister entirely cleared up was the position of those people who have been feeding cattle. Everyone remembers that only a few years ago farmers and feeders were called upon to exert themselves to the limit to increase production of beef and pork. Feeders were called upon as well as the rest of us farmers to do what they could. I submit that when these people were prepared not only to carry on their usual operations but to expand them, provision should have been made to enable them to "take the bumps," so that they could operate properly and efficiently. We were told that meat was needed. Meat was raised. We were told that it was of the greatest importance that we farmers produce as much as possible, and feeders were included in that class. I might point out that when the Minister of Munitions and Supply needs something for the war effort, he sees to it that those who are called upon to produce for the good of the nation are protected against loss. Why was a similar arrangement not made on behalf of feeders of beef cattle?

There is another point in this connection which seems strange to me. We had a publicity campaign the object of which was to have us produce more and more, but apparently the increased volume which resulted caught the department entirely unawares. They seemed to know nothing about it until the glut was so heavy that they could not move any more; then they realized that something was going on.

If I have a criticism to make of the department it is in that connection. I believe that they should have had their ear to the ground and that their eyesight should have been a little keener to know what was going on and make a certain amount of provision for it.

In connection with beef, the minister mentioned the different grades—blue label, red label and so on—which go into the meat-handling establishments. It seems strange to me, however, since I have come to the city, that the beef which has been served to me almost invariably reminds me of the kind of beef which came from cows that were in the condition to which the minister referred this afternoon. It is a long way from the kind of beef to which I was accustomed out west.

Mr. JACKMAN: You aristocrats!

Mr. BURTON: If you go to the meat-handling establishments you can call for certain grades of beef. When we come to pork, the minister's department seems to have a fairly effective inspection of the plants which we supply. I can assure him that it is not a