

**Senator Sparrow:** What do you mean by "drastically"? Give us the total imports of cattle per year, then.

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** You went in 1965, for instance, from 200 to 700 pounds, and you had 356,000 of these small cattle.

**Mr. Williams:** These are feeders.

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** And in 1973, up to September, you had 110,000. In 1966 you had 282,000; in 1967 you had 119,000; in 1968 you had 112,000; 1969, 13,000; 1970, 6,000; 1971, 17,000; 1972, 58,000; 1973, 110,000. So you see, in the total figures we do not get up to 200,000 by the end of the year for cattle that went to the United States.

**Mr. Williams:** Mr. Chairman, I must apologize for the figures I gave for 700 pounds and over. I was reading the dollar figures rather than the numbers. The highest ever was 141,000, and not the 25,000 that I quoted. It fluctuates greatly with the low figure being 15,000, and I would suggest that the average probably is around 50,000 or 60,000 back until 1950.

**Senator Sparrow:** That is 700 pounds and over.

**Mr. Williams:** Seven hundred pounds or over.

**Senator Sparrow:** And the average of 700 or less would be 200,000.

**Mr. Williams:** No. I would say it would be somewhat less than that in the last seven or eight years. It has shown tremendous fluctuations from a high of 357,000 to a low of only 6,000, so I guess the average would be closer to 100,000 or 125,000.

I think while we are on this subject we should point out that we have extensive exports of dressed beef to the United States, largely of manufactured quality, over and above this.

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** That's cow and bull.

**Senator Laing:** I should like to make a representation to the minister before he goes in relation to that part of his statement where he referred to the sales by the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board to Japan under contract. I think now that several thousand tons of pork have been shipped from Vancouver to Japan, chilled but not frozen, and I am told that its acceptance in Japan has been of a very, very high order. So it would appear that there is a possible market of fantastic proportions for us there. Now, I don't know about the situation in Manitoba, but in Alberta, due to gas-fired farrowing pens and so on, if we return to the normal relationship between grain and meat, I think there is no area in the world that could produce pork more economically than Alberta.

The minister is going to Japan shortly, and I would hope that he would see to it that we do not lose that connection, because when we return, as we ultimately will, to the old-time relationship between grain and meat, there will be an opportunity there for building an enormous trade with Japan. As I say, our pork products are very highly accepted and they want more of them if they can get them quickly, and at a price that would be very advantageous to us. I think there is an enormous opportunity for building a trade relationship there. Could

we see to it that in the case of Manitoba and Alberta we do not lose that market?

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** They have signed an agreement with Alberta to take so many sides or carcasses of pork, but the Japanese like to trade like the Minister of Agriculture thinks we should in Canada: they just cut you off when they don't want any more of your product. They have done that with Australia as far as beef was concerned, and they have done it with Canada in relation to pork. That is, unless it has been under contract, they say, "That is as much as we are going to take!"

This is one of the things we will be discussing with them, because we met the Minister of Agriculture and some other officials from Japan last fall and they seemed more receptive to long-term contracts, the kind that enable you to provide a proper structure so that people would know where they were going in production. They even considered having an escalator clause in case production costs go up, but they also wanted it in the event that costs went down.

**Senator Laing:** All the copper that goes out of British Columbia is signed on the basis of contract that provides for so many tons, but the price varies with the world market in London.

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** I hope you are aware of what was announced on the radio this morning—that is, that the copper producing countries are going to get together like the oil producing countries have done and are going to set a world price for copper.

**Senator Laing:** Well, British Columbia will be right in there.

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** Canada will be right in there.

**The Chairman:** Well, Mr. Minister, we are delighted to have had you with us this morning, together with Mr. Williams. I am sure the size of the turn-out this morning indicates the interest of senators in agriculture and in your statement. I hope we can do a satisfactory job for you on Bill S-2. We are glad to have had you here this morning, and we hope to see you again at another session.

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** May I repeat that if you have any suggestions on this Small Farms program, please feel free to submit them as quickly as possible because there will be a meeting of the committee in the near future.

**Senator McElman:** I think there is a representation in our report on that.

**The Chairman:** We have submitted an interim report, and that is now public. We will be having another group meeting shortly, and we will get some further information to you.

**Hon. Mr. Whelan:** We have your report, but I thought that there might be further ideas since then. After a report is submitted we find that many people send in suggestions, and I thought this might be the case here.