

*Supply—Agriculture*

who are breeders of dairy cattle? A couple of years ago Canadian breeders sold a dairy cow for the record sum of \$42,000. Shortly afterwards another sold for \$43,000. The highest price ever obtained at auction for a dairy bull by Canadian breeders was \$115,000. Shortly after that a bull was sold to the American breeders association for \$140,000, and since then \$150,000 was paid for a sire used in Ontario in an A.I. unit. These sires are used by Canadian dairymen through the A.I. program.

Let us see if milk production has improved at all. A few years ago it was not very common to get a cow producing 20,000 pounds of milk a year. However, today it is common among the high producers, some of which have produced over 30,000 pounds. I believe that three such cows in Canada achieved this figure last year, though I could be wrong there. That means that over 1,000 pounds of butterfat, sometimes 1,200 pounds, is produced by a single cow in one year. If that is not an improvement I should like to know what is. I should also like to know what more the dairymen of Canada can do to improve their livestock.

The second piece of advice is that the dairyman should produce less milk. How you can produce less and at the same time increase production I have not yet figured out, though I may in time. If this does not solve the dairymen's problem, it will at least solve the problem of the minister and the dairy commission. How ridiculous can you get, Mr. Chairman?

A new dairy policy is due soon, though what it will consist of no one knows. If the dairy farmer is a good guesser he will be prepared to take advantage of the goodies it offers. Let us look at the last dairy policy for a moment since it is the one now in operation. More money was spent on subsidies than the year before but there was greater dissatisfaction, and I should like to know why. I can tell you why, Mr. Chairman. Producers who shipped under 50,000 pounds of milk or the equivalent in cream received no subsidy at all. This was one of the rank discriminations of the policy.

Who were the farmers affected by this discrimination? They were the smaller mixed farmers to whom the sale of milk from a few cows was an important part of their operation. I should like to know what principle the minister is adopting here. This discrimination could be removed to a certain extent when the figure drops to 12,000 pounds from 50,000

[Mr. Moore.]

pounds. The yearly production of one good cow is 12,000 pounds. Any farmer who produces more will come within the policy. Nevertheless, the principle is still the same, and we must not forget that a large number of dairymen are affected by it. If the principle is correct, then any farmer who ships one pound of butterfat or one pound of manufacturing milk should receive the subsidy. The present policy discriminates against the fluid milk shipper, who must produce milk of highest quality and at even greater cost, with a huge outlay for equipment. I am having a little competition from across the aisle, Mr. Chairman.

**The Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Moore:** For example, Mr. Chairman, fluid milk shippers are required to instal a \$4,000 or \$5,000 cooling tank. The barn cleaning equipment costs \$2,000. Most large dairymen have this equipment but fluid milk shippers must have it and also many other items of equipment. Yet they receive no subsidy for a large part of their milk which may be used for manufacturing purposes. In many instances the quota for the higher priced distribution milk is very small, and it is to these dairymen that I refer, not to those with a full quota. The provincial board may increase the price for this portion, thereby increasing the cost to the consumers and causing them to buy less milk. In turn, this cuts the farmer's quota even further.

I should like to give you an example of this, Mr. Chairman. Some months ago I met a group of fluid milk shippers in Alberta and they had their milk cheques in hand. We carefully figured out the average price that each received. One young man—I pick him because the government seems to feel that the older men should pack it up—received an average price of \$3.31 per hundredweight before haulage charges were deducted, and believe me, Mr. Chairman, they cost enough. This is hardly in line with the minister's widely published \$4.75 per hundred pounds for manufactured milk. This man operates in an area where the cows are stabled eight months a year and fed on hay costing from 50 cents to \$1 a bale.

The dairy policy of the government has been one of discrimination and expediency. The method of payment and the administration are just too awkward to describe, as many members of the house who have dairy producers in their constituencies can testify.