

neglected." A year later, for the week ending April 23, 1931, we have this report:

The outlet for cattle during the past week was again of rather narrow width, and where supplies were at all liberal the week-end found clearances rather hard to effect.

Turning to the prices on the Winnipeg market for that week I find that good and choice steers were sold at an average price of \$5.19, top price \$5.75, and top price the previous week, \$5.50; calves sold at an average price of \$6.74, top price, \$8, top price the previous week, \$9; hogs sold at an average price of \$7.60, top price, \$7.75, top price the previous week, \$7.50; lambs sold at an average price of \$8.27, top price, \$8.50, top price the previous week, \$8.50; sheep were selling at \$3.50. Then I come to the dominion live stock report for the month of April, 1932. In the summary appearing on the first page I find this statement:

Another shipment of export cattle went forward to Great Britain this week, the heaviest load so far this year, totalling 619 head.

The present government appear to be taking a great deal of credit for the shipment of cattle to the old country; I hear reports of hon. members opposite going around the country saying what wonderful things the department is doing. Let me remind the committee that last year we had before the agriculture committee an English cattle dealer named Mr. Brown. He told the committee then that we had not been shipping cattle to Great Britain during the two or three previous years because the prices here were about as good as the prices in the old country. So this government should not take credit because that movement has started again; the only reason we are shipping cattle to Great Britain to-day is that the prices there are better than the prices here. Our prices are so very low that we can ship cattle to Great Britain or anywhere else. The statement continues:

A cable from Great Britain reports the sale of some of the Canadian cattle shipped two weeks ago on the steamship Manchester Commerce. They were good quality steers and made 8½d. to 8¾d. dressed weight including offal. . . . Domestic cattle markets showed an improved condition this week, and not wholly because of a sharp reduction in receipts at some yards.

Turning to the prices during April of this year, about two years after the Prime Minister made the pledge that he would help live stock, dairying and those other branches of agriculture that had been so badly neglected, we find that during the week of April 14 the average price for choice and good steers on

the Winnipeg market was \$4.96, while the top price was \$5.50 as compared with the top price of \$5.25 during the previous week. The average price for calves was \$4.91, the top price \$5.50, and the top price of the previous week \$5. It will be noticed that prices were even better during the week of April 14 than during the previous week. The price of hogs, bacon type, was \$3.94, with a premium of \$1 per hog on selects. The top price was \$4, and the top price in the previous week was the same. The average price for lambs was \$6.74, and the top price \$6.50, while the price of sheep was \$2.

When the Prime Minister made his pledges with regard to agriculture and said what he was going to do, we were told not only by the right hon. gentleman but by many others, that the tariff was the remedy. I think it is well known that tariffs have never been as high in Canada as they are at the present time, but the agricultural industry has never been so badly depressed as it is now. I hope I may be excused if I am a little out of order in what I am about to say; these agriculture estimates have been discussed in a more or less general way, and with the permission of the chairman I am going to say all that I have to say on this one item.

A few days ago the Minister of Agriculture referred to a proposed marketing board, and I think the idea of this board is fairly popular throughout the country. I believe the reason for its popularity is that people do not understand what may be the consequences. I do not hesitate to say that I have not very much faith in the establishment of a marketing board, for the reason that I fear that it will be just one more clog in the machinery that is already over-clogged with regard to the marketing of our farm products. In my view this board would either have the effect of increasing the prices of farm products, or it would not. Let us suppose that for the time being it increases the prices of farm products. We know that one of our greatest problems to-day is a lack of markets, and a consequent over-production because our marketing facilities are not adequate. If we do increase the value of these farm products will we not stimulate production, and then will we not have over-production and a decrease in the value of our farm products? On the other hand, if the board will not increase the value of our products what is the use of spending our time and thought on it?

A few weeks ago I sent a letter to the press in various parts of the country, largely to the weeklies but to some of the daily papers as well, drawing attention to a very live ques-