

at what this government has done for the farmers in Canada." A few moments ago he quoted prices, and in that connection I want to say to him that on Saturday in the county of Perth the farmers received only 2.90 cents per pound for their hogs. That is the lowest price paid for hogs in the history of farming in the province of Ontario. Yet this government comes to parliament with not even a half-baked article concerning this important industry. They would have been far better if they had left to some future date, this alleged aid to the hog industry, because I want to tell the Minister of Trade and Commerce—and the Prime Minister who, I am glad to see, is in his seat—that the farmers of the province of Ontario are fed up, sick and tired of promises made by this government to them. They want something real. They want the government to fulfil some of its promises. If this agreement is all that is to be offered the farmers of Ontario, so far as the hog industry is concerned, they will soon learn that there is nothing to it at all.

True, this discussion is futile, but the fault is not with the opposition but with the government. They bring in an article which means nothing at all. It simply means that if so and so happens, or if the commission happens to report so and so the United Kingdom may take a certain amount of Canadian bacon and ham at world prices. It offers no solace or comfort to the farmers in Ontario. I make that statement despite what the Prime Minister, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Agriculture in Ontario or that great mogul the High Commissioner in London, may have to say.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, I will come to the rescue of the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, and explain why he has given an interview to the press. At page 14 of the Montreal Gazette for Saturday last I find the following:

The High Commissioner, the Financial Times said, predicted that Canadian farmers were going to be more prosperous than they had been for a long time and that the British bacon quota would do more for them than any other single thing.

There is one reason for that statement, and it is this: Mr. Ferguson, the High Commissioner is a farmer. On his farm down at Kemptville he has great potential hog possibilities.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POULIOT: Why do you protest? I am defending him with all my strength.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to prolong this debate but I should like to express my appreciation of the fact that the minister by tabling the British hog commission report has at least given something to hang our hats on.

Mr. POULIOT: Do the hon. gentlemen opposite desire the Hon. Mr. Ferguson to carry his potential possibilities with him?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Témiscouata should remember that the House of Commons is a gentleman's club. In this particular instance the hon. member for Melville has the floor.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have something before us that we can hang our hats on. We are now in a position to go home and tell our constituents that after persisting a long time we received a summary of the report upon which all our hopes have been raised for the past two or three months with respect to anticipated hog production and marketing in Canada, and throughout the empire. True, the summary is not very extensive, but perhaps it is the best the minister could give. As I mentioned yesterday I have before me a summary which appeared in the Livestock Journal, made by a very reputable editor. Although the summary before me goes much farther than does that of the minister, it bears out to a great extent what he has said. It indicates also that about three-quarters of the report concerns the production of hogs. Great Britain has reached the stage when she has to do something to reduce the vast number of breeds of hogs obtaining in that country. But we know that in Canada that action was taken long ago. They are about ten years behind us in this and other respects in relation to the grading of farm products. A great deal of their activity has been directed towards securing good quality, and an effort to secure a desirable type of bacon hog for the market. Then, further, the summary before me mentions a number of matters in connection with breeding. I shall not go into that, however, except to draw attention to it. A comparatively small part of the report deals with marketing. I do not know that we can do anything but simply wait and see how this thing turns out. I would appeal to the government, however, not to encourage our farmers to enter into an active hog producing campaign at a time when hogs sell for only two cents a pound at western points.