

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Is there any plant in Canada to-day putting up tinned beef?

Hon. Mr. BURNS: No. Two or three plants started, but they couldn't make it go. The product is brought in cheaper from other countries; it comes in at about six cents a pound. When a beast that weighs 500 pounds is put in cans—boiled down and the bones taken out—it weighs only about 160 or 170 pounds.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: The Australian canned beef was always of superior quality. That is why the people here preferred it.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Hon. Mr. BURNS: We poor fellows in the West would like to hear of some way of raising the price of cattle. Otherwise I don't know what we are going to do.

The CHAIRMAN: We would all appreciate a rise in the price of cattle.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Do you not think it would be possible for someone here to supply that canned beef? We in the West are ideally situated to raise great numbers of cattle, and if we could secure that market for 40,000 or 50,000 head that are now coming in in cans it would help the breeders of cattle, and the canning would give employment to many people. Furthermore, the class of cattle that would be used for that purpose now injures the market for the good cattle.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Have you any figures as to the export of bacon and hogs last year?

Dr. BARTON: Yes. Our export of bacon last year amounted to 71,524,700 pounds. The previous year it amounted to 30,663,400 pounds.

Hon. Mr. POPE: It was doubled last year. How far can we go in that direction?

Dr. BARTON: We have been asked to estimate our output for this year. It is a very difficult thing to do. There are many uncertain factors involved. But there is a great interest in hog production now.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: How much more than we were able to supply would the market have taken?

Dr. BARTON: Four times as much.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: The position of the man who feeds hogs is not like that of the manufacturer of any commodity. The man in any other business knows what he is going to get, and can finance accordingly, but the man who raises hogs cannot do that. It is very important that a hog should be marketed when he weighs not more than 230 pounds. When you come to sell the market may be down one cent. That one cent means your entire profit is gone. I had any amount of grain last year worth 40 cents a bushel, but I could not go to my banker and say, "I am going into hogs on a large scale, I have so many bushels of grain for feed, and I require an advance." The banker knows my ability as a feeder, but because I have no idea what I shall receive for those hogs in the fall he cannot finance me. Hog raising is in a different position from any other business. I can sell grain for next October delivery before I seed it, if I wish, but hail, frost and grasshoppers might take that crop, and I might be caught; but if I have the feed on hand I would be able to deliver my hogs at the end of a certain period. If we could get the business on a contract basis we should have something definite to work on.

Dr. BARTON: You are dealing with a perishable product in the case of hogs.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Not as perishable as bacon.

Dr. BARTON: But it is more perishable as compared with wheat.