

War Appropriation—Agriculture

Year	Per 100 pounds
1938.....	\$ 6 50
1939.....	6 24
1940.....	7 46
1941.....	8 15
1942.....	11 58
1943.....	11 63

Of course we have not reached June of 1944.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Could the minister give us the prices the feeders had to pay in the fall of each of those years?

Mr. GARDINER: When we get down to the general item on cattle I will do that; I am dealing now with the general question of inducing farmers to produce by a higher price level. I now have the figures for October in the same years:

Year	Per 100 pounds
1938.....	\$ 4 85
1939.....	6 03
1940.....	7 00
1941.....	8 08
1942.....	9 43
1943.....	10 45

Those are the prices for good butchers at Winnipeg, which as hon. members, and particularly those from the west, will understand is the basic price for steers delivered to that market.

I should like to make a comparison with hogs, and I am going to take the live weight price for hogs because in the earlier years we did not have rail grading; but I have reduced the rail grade prices to the live weight basis in order that the figures may be comparable. These are the prices per 100 pounds for hogs, at Winnipeg, in January of the years in question:

Year	Per 100 pounds
1938.....	\$ 8 28
1939.....	8 54
1940.....	8 61
1941.....	7 65
1942.....	10 40
1943.....	11 55
1944.....	12 23

In other words, starting in 1938 with \$8.28 the price has increased each year, with one exception which I am sure hon. members will remember, until it reached \$12.23 in January of this year. I now come to the figures for June in the same years:

Year	Per 100 pounds
1938.....	\$10 66
1939.....	8 78
1940.....	7 75
1941.....	9 23
1942.....	10 62
1943.....	11 87

Again we are unable as yet to give the figure for June of this year. It will be noticed

[Mr. Gardiner.]

that there is a difference between the period I have mentioned and the present period. It will be noticed that the high price for hogs in 1938 was in the months of May, June and July. The price in May was \$10.28; in June, \$10.66, and in July, \$11.83. It dropped in August to \$9.63; in September to \$9.21, and in October to \$7.80; then it went up again in January to \$8.28. The next year war broke out and prices changed to some extent. The following year there was another change in prices. Coming down to 1943, however, we find the price in January, \$11.55; in June of the same year, \$11.87, and in October, \$11.73. In other words, the price is maintained at approximately the same level throughout the whole year. That was true from January through to October; then on October 1 our hog year changed and the price went up to \$12.05. The following month it was \$12.23, and in April of this year it was \$12.29. In other words, the price runs along almost at a dead level throughout the year, whereas previously the high prices would be in May, June and July.

There is an explanation for that, and that explanation applies to beef as well as hogs. Up to the moment, however, it has not applied to beef to the same extent, largely because we have had very little export of beef since 1942; all our beef has been consumed in Canada. We are, however, exporting beef this year. As a result of our experience during the war we have established more or less of a flat price for hogs throughout the year, something for which farmers have been asking during my experience. The farmer has been saying that he does not want a condition under which, because of a rush of hogs to the market, someone can force the price down at one period of the year, process the hogs, put them in the form of bacon or keep them in freezers and carry the pork into another period when the price is higher, and make great profits at the expense of the farmer. Producers of live stock believe that prices should be kept fairly level throughout the year. Our first opportunity to do that came during this war period, and it came about in this way. Ever since the war started there has been a constant demand for all the hogs we could produce. That constant demand has come from the British market; there has not been very much variation in the demands of the Canadian market. When the Canadian demand did go up we imposed regulations in order to prevent the Canadian people from consuming as much pork as they were prepared to consume. The reason was that we wanted to send over to Britain the full supply that she wanted. In order to make that possible, we entered into a contract with the