

Agricultural Products Act

We have had some talk about cattle. In 1938 we had on our farms 8,491,000 head of cattle; in 1947 there were 9,718,000; in 1948, 9,470,000. The figures run 8,491,000; 8,374,000; 8,380,000; 8,517,000; and 8,945,000. Then in 1943 the figures go up, and in 1948 they are still away above anything that we had prior to the war. In other words, our production of cattle is not down; our production of cattle is up.

What about domestic disappearance? My hon. friends want to know why we do not export more. We were eating 631 million pounds of beef in 1936. We dropped down to 629 million in 1937, and then in 1947 our consumption had risen to 945 million pounds as compared with 619 million back at the beginning of the period. These figures show why we have not as much meat to export now, in proportion to what we are producing, as we had before.

Then coming to hogs, back in 1938 we had on our farms 3,527,000, while in 1947 we had 5,473,000 and in 1948, 4,463,000. When one looks at these figures one can show that the production of hogs in Canada or the number on our farms was not as great as in 1947 and 1948 as it was during the years of the war; but the fact is that in these later years we have had a better production of hogs than we had in the earlier periods of the development of our industry.

Let us come to domestic disappearance. In 1938 we ate 424,631,000 pounds of pork in one form or another, and in 1948 we ate 710,880,000 pounds. In other words, if you took the greater number of pounds of pork that were eaten in 1948 as compared with the years preceding the war and converted it into bacon, we could send to Britain far more bacon than anyone has ever suggested that we ought to be able to send in years of peace. If my hon. friends want to know why we are not sending more of some of these things to Britain, all they need to do is to read the figures.

Mr. Case: We have pretty well eaten ourselves into prosperity.

Mr. Gardiner: We have not done too bad a job of it.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): How many more people are there to eat it?

Mr. Gardiner: There is another thing I cannot understand. I have sat in this house for some fourteen years and during that time and for a long time before I have been listening to the Tories talk.

Mr. Harkness: The minister has not learned much.

Mr. Gardiner: They have not convinced me that they are right. They have changed their [Mr. Gardiner.]

minds on so many things that I am beginning to think that I was right all the time. Here is another thing they have changed their minds on. When we used to talk about a market in Great Britain or in the United States our hon. friends across the way used to say that the only market worth while was the home market, that we ought to have the home market. When we say to them that the home market is consuming 50 per cent more of our meat than it consumed a short time ago they say, "Why, you ought to be shipping it to Great Britain. You should not allow Great Britain to go over and get some pork from Poland. You should not allow Great Britain to go and get some pork from Denmark. You ought to be taking it away from the people of Canada and sending it over there as export." I do not know that they can have the argument both ways. We have not been doing too badly as a party, during the twenty-one years out of the last twenty-five that we have been in office, in securing and developing markets. Our experience has been that whenever we allow these fellows over here to get into power we have a task on our hands for the next ten years to get back to where we were.

Let us have a look for a moment at their pet product, cheese. The last speaker on the other side took the greater part of his time to talk about the production of cheese going down, but most people who know anything about dairy products base their conclusions on milk rather than on any one of the products. After all, according to the table I have here—

Mr. Fulton: Where did you get that table from?

Mr. Gardiner:—about 25 per cent of our milk is sold in fluid form. I got the table from the same source as my hon. friend gets his if they are right. About one-tenth of the milk that is produced is consumed on the farm. Dairy and creamery butter combined use up around 50 per cent, and all of the remainder goes into cheese, evaporated whole milk, condensed whole milk, whole milk powder, skim milk powder, casein and ice cream. The largest of those is evaporated whole milk. Back in 1937 when 130 million pounds of milk went into factory cheese, 91,331,000 pounds went into evaporated whole milk. In 1948, when 89 million pounds of milk went into factory cheese, 248 million pounds of milk went into evaporated whole milk. Where we had 11 million pounds going into condensed whole milk in the first year I mentioned, last year we had 34 million pounds. Similarly where we had 5 million pounds going into whole milk powder, last year we had 19 million pounds. Where we