

Mr. McCALLUM: Our own representatives, sir, at the stockyards, who have charge of the administration of the Act, compile these reports from actual sales every day.

Our system of marketing live stock in Canada is modelled more along the lines of the American system than the British system. In the Old Country they have the system of many small auctions throughout the land, but here, I suppose on account of the long distances which live stock have to be brought, and also by reason of the fact that our centres of population are not many, it is only reasonable that stockyards should grow up at the centres of population—Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Those are the centres at which stockyards are now established. It is not strange, either, that the packing house industry should be located at those same centres.

I may say that we have no public stockyards in Canada east of Montreal. All of the surplus stock produced in the Maritime Provinces—and that refers particularly to lambs and hogs—is marketed in Montreal. At the present time we have no stockyard west of Calgary and Edmonton, although a small stockyard in Vancouver is being brought under the jurisdiction of the Act. This puts the province of Alberta in more or less a strategic position. As well as having the eastern outlet furnished by Ontario and Britain, they have the outlet for the great trade at Vancouver, and a very large percentage of the good beef cattle used in the packing houses in Vancouver are taken from the province of Alberta, as well as a great number of hogs and a considerable volume of lambs. This puts the province of Alberta in a pretty fair position so far as domestic demand is concerned.

I have mentioned that there are nine different stockyards in Canada. No two of them are alike. Each has its own peculiarities. When live stock gets to Montreal it gets to the end of the road as it were; there is very little purchasing of thin animals at Montreal for feeding in the province of Quebec, and practically all the stock that reaches Montreal has to be sold to the packers or small butchers of Montreal for immediate slaughter, or to the dairy men, who purchase a good many cows.

Toronto is somewhat different. It is more of a distributing centre. As well as supplying the packers and small butchers, they receive a large number of feeder cattle to be distributed to the farmers of Ontario.

Winnipeg is in a position which might be compared to the neck of a bottle. You will recall that when our trade in cattle to the United States was fairly lively, nearly all the cattle coming from west of Winnipeg had to go through that neck of the bottle. Likewise when they were coming east to Ontario or to Britain, Winnipeg was in a very strategic position for handling a large volume of stock.

I have already dealt with the stockyards in Alberta, which have a splendid outlet to the Pacific coast.

All those stockyards were established and in operation before the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act was put on the statutes in 1917. Live stock exchanges were operating at most of those places before that, consequently the department took jurisdiction over the stockyards and exchanges as they were at the time, and have been exercising control over the operation of both stockyards and exchanges ever since.

There seems to be a great deal of confusion in the minds of many people as to what a stockyard is. When they speak about stockyard charges they include commission merchant's charges. The stockyards and the live stock exchanges are two separate entities, each operating under its own scale of charges and its own rules and regulations, which have been approved by the Minister of Agriculture. The stockyard company furnishes the building, the plant. In fact, the stockyard company is not much more than a warehousing