

Mr. HLYNKA: The *Financial Post* of May 20, 1944.

An hon. MEMBER: You cannot disagree with that.

Mr. HLYNKA: The reason why I attach the value I do to this article is that it seems to be compiled fairly well, and the statistical data he gives checks with what I have read in other publications.

Mr. BLAIR: Who publishes the *Financial Post*?

Mr. HLYNKA: I am sure that the publisher of the *Financial Post* is not a Social Creditor; he may be a Liberal. The fact is that when our farmers produced bacon which was too fat they were docked for overweight. With the experience gained in this war the farmers of this country should be assured a post-war market. This article states that prior to the war Denmark filled about sixty per cent of the needs of the British bacon market, Canada filling only from eighteen to twenty per cent. Great Britain should be Canada's best bacon market. But unless we are able to produce the quality of bacon that the British people want to buy, our farmers will find themselves in the position in which they were prior to this war. Every hon. member from western Canada knows that the situation was desperate at that time, and statements have been made on the floor of this chamber that we will never go back to pre-war days. Yet the situation seems to be heading that way. I suggest to the minister that he and his experts should see to it that matters are worked out in such a way as to guarantee a fair share of the national income after the war to our farmers.

I do not want to raise any particular objections to the present state of affairs at this time because I think we must all recognize that to run any department during war time is not an easy task. The Social Credit party is not endeavouring to fight a Saskatchewan election in this chamber, although other gentlemen may seem to be concerned with that particular issue at this time. We are merely placing our views on this subject before the committee because we believe that this matter is of importance to the farmers of Canada.

I should like to say a word about beef marketing and the embargo placed upon the movement of beef to the United States. Not long ago I had an opportunity of visiting our good neighbours to the south, and not once during my four days' stay there did I see beef on the menus of the restaurants. Yet this afternoon the hon. member for Lethbridge and the minister were matching arguments as to the true situation concerning beef. When the minister and his department found that they were unable to market all the beef produced, surely they could have made arrangements within

[Mr. Mitchell.]

twenty-four hours to sell to the United States what beef they could not otherwise dispose of.

The farmers of Ontario were calling mass meetings and getting together from one end of the province to the other, sending resolutions to this government to lift this particular restriction so that they could sell their beef to the people in the United States who needed it at that time. But no action was taken. Our people were told to take their cattle back home when they brought them to the market. That sort of situation cannot possibly be justified. Surely we should have taken advantage of every opportunity to sell what we had to sell, and the people of this country are in a position to produce more if more is required.

The Minister of Agriculture said that he was unable to forecast what was going to happen in the future, that everything depended on the law of supply and demand. That is an old story, Mr. Chairman, and it will not stand the test now. In the first place our people must have all the food that they require, and our farmers are ready to produce all the food that our people can consume. But in order that the farmers may buy the commodities which they need in order to get along, they must be able to sell some of their surplus products to other countries. That subject has been discussed by members of this group on many occasions. The government has always maintained that unless we are able to export our surplus products to other countries, then our own people in Canada must go hungry because we shall have no money. After this war we must get down to brass tacks and assure the people of Canada that they will never, never go hungry again because we can produce all the foodstuffs that we need and still have a surplus to export to other nations. That is the first thing we must ensure. Second, we must be ready to exchange our surpluses with other nations. This talk that goes on from time to time to the effect that everything must be based on gold or some other fictitious basis will not hold water after this war. Mr. Wilson, when he was speaking to one of these gentlemen, was given a plain indication of what might be expected. He was told: "We will buy all the bacon and cheese and wheat you want to sell us, provided that you buy a like amount of British products in return." We must recognize the fact that exchange of goods is the basis of all trade. To repeat, we must first of all produce to satisfy the needs of our own people. Second, we must export our surpluses in exchange for the goods we need. If the minister can assure our people of those two things, this committee and the people of Canada will not blame him for the difficulties that may arise.

Mr. BURTON: It is quite apparent from the remarks of the Minister of Agriculture