

*Supply—Agriculture*

made on the basis of 2 cents per pound for cheese scoring 94 or better, and 1 cent for cheese scoring 93. I also wish to point out to the minister the splendid value and results that have been realized throughout the years from this assistance.

I note that when the program was begun 48 per cent of all cheese was eligible for premium. In 1966, there was 71 per cent eligible. One can see what an improvement this program has made in the quality of our cheese. Because of its importance to our local economy and our export balance of payments with Britain and other countries, where there is a great appetite and demand for our Cheddar, I say to the minister: Do not abandon this assistance to the Canadian cheese producers.

Some time ago this government was threatening to abandon the small milk producer as well. I am proud to have been one of those who spoke up on behalf of all those milk producers who produce 50,000 pounds or less of milk per year. Last November 30 I brought this matter to the attention of the house and the minister, and I now note that the subsidy will be applied to those producing 12,000 pounds of milk per year instead of only to those producing 50,000 pounds. I have no quarrel with the figure that has been arrived at, because the man who produces less than 12,000 pounds might better be in some other business.

● (8:50 p.m.)

It is conceded that the future trend must be to larger production per unit, and in the next five years vast changes will take place. I am informed that in 1966, out of a total of about 190,500 farmers, 48,704 were producing more than 100,000 pounds of milk annually, and that it is estimated that in five years the number of producers in this category will rise to between 80,000 and 90,000.

One can readily see that this will vastly increase our dairy production, and I hope it will put this country into a position where we can help feed more of the millions of hungry mouths in this world. In the meantime, as we have contended, you cannot and you must not annihilate the small milk producers at one fell swoop of government legislation, for most of them have reached the age at which they do not wish, nor is it advisable for them, to expand their operations. They own their small holdings. They have six or eight, and sometimes ten, cows which produce several calves each year, and they have the summer grass for such an operation. I submit that these people are certainly an asset to any

community and to any country. I am proud to have been one of those who helped convince the government not to do such a callous thing as to cut these people off from their livelihood.

I have mentioned the importance of the dairy industry to our country, and in particular to the countries of Prince Edward and Lennox. From a national standpoint, one of the most valuable organizations connected with the dairy industry for many years has been the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association. For many years this organization has contributed to the propagation of that great breed of dairy cattle and to the upgrading and improvement of Holstein cattle and also of our whole dairy industry, because I believe this breed of cattle composes the majority of the milk producing cattle in our country.

The county of Lennox is signally honoured in this year of 1968 by the election of Mr. Harold McCaul of R.R.5, Napanee, Ontario, as president of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association. Mr. McCaul has given years of valuable service to the association which he now heads, and to the dairy industry, as well as to Canada as a whole. I congratulate him on behalf of my constituency and I thank him for the honour that he has brought to Lennox and Addington counties and to his native township of Richmond.

I am sure the minister will agree with me as to the importance of the maintenance of high standards in our various breeds of dairy cattle. Others taking part in this debate will no doubt touch on the importance of grants to fairs and exhibitions of livestock. May I at this time quote from an article which appeared in the *Western Producer* of February 22, 1968 and which is headed "Decline Noted in Holstein Show Herds." The first paragraph reads as follows:

The decline in numbers of both exhibitors and animals at shows is causing the extension service committee of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association real concern, said Curtis Clark of Carstairs, Alberta, in a report to the annual meeting of the Holstein association at Toronto, February 14.

"Nothing can quite replace the show ring in providing an opportunity for the individual breeder to compare his cattle with the best others have to offer, nor in acting as a show window for the breed.

I am sure the minister will agree with me that the activities of this particular association and of all purebred cattle associations are certainly of great value to us nationally. I point out that it is a great balance of trade factor because the high grade purebred Holsteins produced in our country are in great