

we do not eat beef, and when we eat beef we do not eat pork.

We were exporting 300,000 head of cattle—heavy cattle, light cattle, calves, and breeding stock—to the United States at the beginning of the war. And we were exporting just as many the year before last as we exported in any previous year. Last year, down to the first of July, we exported more cattle to the United States than we had in preceding years. We exported 121,000 head of beef cattle in the year 1942 to the United States, and there have been no exports since about the month of September. I give these figures to indicate that even in the matter of beef it is not a question of a shortage in this country. It is a matter of a transition from a period when we were feeding two-year-old steers for market in this country to a period when we are feeding three-year-old steers to be marketed one year later. That we are not able to get on our tables the kind of beef we desire is not because there is a shortage of beef in Canada, but because that six-months' period is required in order to make the transition from one form of feeding to the other. While, therefore, we have found it necessary to close off exports to the United States and to cut down on the consumption of pork, both have been made necessary by the fact that we must ship more and more bacon and ham to Great Britain in order to assist in feeding the British people.

May I say a word or two about some of our other products? What shortages have we in Canada? Certainly we have no shortage of apples. We have been begging every country in the world to take apples, ever since the beginning of the war. We have begged every country into which we could ship our products under war conditions. It certainly has not been beans. We have been coaxing the British and United States governments to take more beans from this country, every year since the war started. It certainly has not been potatoes. One member who raised the question in the house cabled me when I was in Britain in 1940 to ask if I could not get an order there for potatoes, pointing out we had a surplus of potatoes in this country. But when I came back and told him that they were growing potatoes over there in every backyard and had millions of bushels of them, he realized, of course, that potatoes were a surplus in this country; and, Mr. Speaker, in spite of the remark made yesterday by one hon. member, potatoes are still a surplus in this country. Every potato grower knows that; every wholesaler knows it. Some difficulties in distribution have to be ironed out; there are always difficulties in distribution when you attempt to impose upon the people controls to which they have

not been accustomed. But when those difficulties have been ironed out the distribution of potatoes in this country will meet the demands of the people of Canada.

Let me repeat; we have surpluses in all these important staple products in Canada, and these surpluses are being utilized to assist the allied countries in feeding their peoples. We shall have food when we have crossed the boundary lines of countries which are now enemy occupied. We shall have food produced in those countries when we have advanced far enough into them to permit of agriculture being carried on behind the lines. The food of our own people in surplus and the food of these people of Europe will be used to assist the allies in winning the war through food as well as through the use of bullets and machines of war.

But there has been one limitation upon the production of the kind of food our allies require during the years since the beginning of the war. In spite of all the effort that we could put into it there was a limit upon production, and that limit was the feed available. We had had a series of poor crops across Canada in the years immediately preceding the war. We had another poor crop in Canada in 1941. When I say to this house that on July 31, 1942, there was only one month's supply of feed in Canada, it will be realized what the limiting factor was in 1941-42. It was feed. Even had we had ten times as much labour as we had during that period we should not have been able to raise more live stock, we should not have been able to finish more live stock unless we did what was advised by some people, namely, to feed our wheat. I do not know just how many farmers there are in this house, but every farmer here knows that there is a limit to the amount of wheat that you can feed to live stock. Everyone knows that if you attempted to keep horses on wheat you very soon would not have any horses. Everyone knows that if you attempted to feed cattle on nothing but wheat, unless you had an expert doing it, you probably would not have cattle very long. Perhaps this does not apply in the same measure to the feeding of hogs and chickens; nevertheless even there a proper rationed feed will do much better for the stock, for the farmer and for the country than the feeding of wheat itself.

What has happened with respect to wheat? We fed twice as much wheat in 1942 as we had fed in previous years. We gave special freight rates on wheat shipped to the east for feeding purposes. Wheat was fed from one end of the country to the other until the amount fed in that year was double the amount fed in preceding years. In spite of that fact,