

There is another matter in connection with our bacon shipments to Great Britain. The *Western Producer* of March 23 states:

Associated with Mr. Peterson was Dr. George B. Miller of Ottawa, bacon specialist with the Canadian meat board, who has recently returned from Britain where he inspected handling of Canadian Wiltshire bacon. He explained that all bacon reaching the British housewife was "slightly stale" because supplies were kept on hand three or four weeks. Often, he found, Canadian bacon was kept on British wharfs two or three days before getting to refrigerated storage.

I believe that since that time the government has adopted some policy to overcome this matter, but I submit that this practice deteriorates the quality of our bacon and will possibly affect the demand for Canadian bacon as compared with the demand for Danish bacon when the war is over.

I referred also to labour within the packing plants. At different times labour has been blamed for the stoppages and congestion which have occurred in different plants and I do not think that charge was justified. I should like to know whether the Minister of Agriculture has taken steps to deal with the labour situation. There were one or two things the labourers in these packing plants wanted, and if these were granted I think it would help considerably in relieving this situation. One was equal pay for women.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder if we are in order discussing labour matters on the present item?

Mr. GARDINER: The hon. member is dealing with labour in the packing plants which is necessary to put out the hogs, and I think he is quite in order.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: The other complaint was that a certain amount of income tax was being collected at the source for overtime work, which mitigated against the willingness of the people to work overtime. If these matters were straightened out I think it would do a lot toward easing the situation in regard to labour in these plants. We all know a great number of the skilled workers have been taken by selective service and those people who are now going into the plants are not nearly as efficient. If one visits one of these plants he realizes that the job these men and women are doing is at times at least nauseating, and deserves special consideration.

A report in the *Winnipeg Tribune* of October 15 last stated that sheep had hit an all-time low of about fifty cents per 100 pounds. Has anything been done to see that this type of thing shall not occur again this fall? Are steps being taken to smooth out the flow so that producers will not suffer from gluts as they have in the past?

[Mr. Castleden.]

Mr. GARDINER: On the question of shipment of hogs east in order to take care of over-supply in plants in the west, I may say that to December 31 the number shipped east was 46,246, and the subsidy paid by the government was \$35,202.50. For January the number shipped east was 57,656. For February the number shipped east was 36,365 and the amount paid, \$30,088.99. For March the number shipped east was eighty-five and the amount paid, \$59.46. The total number shipped east from last fall until March was 140,352, and the amount paid was \$111,253.70. The basis on which these payments were made was the order of the meat board dated February 11, 1944, which reads:

Under authority of meat board regulations P.C. 4187, the board hereby determines that:

As it is deemed advisable to protect the producer against loss from dead and crippled hogs, payment is hereby approved of the following additional allowances, for this purpose, on such hogs as are eligible for the regular rebate of 50 cents per hundred pounds:

1. Shipments originating in Manitoba—20 cents per hog.
2. Shipments originating in Saskatchewan—30 cents per hog.
3. Shipments originating in Alberta—40 cents per hog.

Then on May 1, 1944, the following order was made by the meat board:

Under authority of meat board regulations P.C. 4187 the board hereby determines that in view of the changes in basic prices for hogs which became effective on April 10, 1944, hogs shipped from the western provinces and slaughtered in Ontario or Quebec plants must on and after that date be settled for on the following basis, in order to be eligible for the rebate of 50 cents per hundred pounds:

The price at which hogs are settled for to the shipper shall be \$17.75 or better per hundred pounds warm dressed weight, on the basis of B.1 grade, or \$18.15 basis A grade, delivered at eastern plants.

It will be understood that that change was necessary because of the change in grading and in the method of payment that was made at that time. Those facts give the answer, I think, with regard to hogs shipped east, the payments made and the manner in which they were made.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Possibly not sufficient account is taken of the fact that these hogs may be on the road for two or three days longer, with a consequent loss in weight and therefore in grade. I do not think less than one dollar would cover that.

Mr. GARDINER: The basis was decided on after twenty years' experience of shipments east and takes care of all those matters except exceptional cases where damage took place. The fifty cents covers everything, including shrinkage.