

Supply—Agriculture

Scotia as a result of having contracted Newcastle disease. The hon. member for Cumberland and I both have referred to this before. On what basis is compensation paid? Is it a statutory amount, or by agreement?

Mr. Gardiner: In so far as Nova Scotia is concerned, it was on the basis of individual losses. I think I put everything on the record the other night when we were discussing the item in the main estimates, with the exception of the total amount paid. A special arrangement was made in each case in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Nowlan: Are there any outstanding claims in the province?

Mr. Gardiner: The officials tell me they do not know of any case at the present time.

Mr. Murphy: The first outbreak of Newcastle disease occurred in Lambton, and I am just wondering if those who suffered this calamity in other places in Canada received better treatment than did the person involved in this first outbreak. On what basis is settlement made?

Mr. Gardiner: Prior to 1947 Newcastle disease was not reportable under our contagious diseases act and therefore we were not liable for payment. In 1947 it was brought under the act, and since that time payments have been made on the same basis as for other contagious diseases, namely the value of the stock which is slaughtered as agreed upon at the time.

Mr. Murphy: That does not answer my question. In this case the man was required to have his henhouses or brooder houses torn down and destroyed. I do not think it is fair for anyone to have to suffer a loss like that. As I say, I believe this was the first case and the department had to strain a point in order to cover it. Is compensation paid for equipment in the way of brooder and henhouses?

Mr. Gardiner: We compensate for the eggs and birds but we require a man to clean up his own property.

Mr. Murphy: There would be no compensation for brooder and henhouses that were destroyed?

Mr. Gardiner: We do not require a man to destroy them; we require that they be disinfected.

Mr. Murphy: They were destroyed in that instance.

Mr. MacKenzie: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Gardiner: That must have been before 1947.

[Mr. Nowlan.]

Mr. MacKenzie: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Murphy: If the hon. member for Lambton-Kent will keep his seat for a moment it will be better. I know we are both involved in this matter.

Mr. MacKenzie: I was trying to help the hon. member, that is all.

Mr. Murphy: I know you would like to do what some Grits did in the committee I have just finished sitting on.

Mr. Gardiner: There were no chickens there.

Mr. Murphy: No, but there were a lot of eggs laid ahead of time. People in the hatchery business buy expensive chickens. I think the hon. member for Lambton-Kent will bear me out when I say that in this particular case the compensation allowed was far short of the cost of the birds.

Mr. MacKenzie: The hon. member for Lambton West has tried to interject a little politics into this matter, and that is just as far from my mind as it possibly could be. This happened in 1948 and it concerned the Hay hatcheries. It was the first outbreak of Newcastle disease in Canada. I am sure the officials will recall that.

Mr. Murphy: I want to ask the minister if fairer consideration is being given those who suffer losses from this disease?

Mr. Gardiner: We do not appear to have any record of that case. I think I can say that as a result of the experience gained in British Columbia and Nova Scotia more effective assistance is being given than was given previously. I do not think we would be in a position to go back and start to deal with the other cases over again because it might be rather difficult to even establish that it is any better now compared with the conditions that existed then.

Mr. Murphy: Will the minister tell the committee whether shippers of chickens to the other side will still be obliged to have these crates disinfected before they come back into this country? I think the hon. member for Lambton-Kent will agree with me that it is from that point that the disease came into Canada.

Mr. Gardiner: Yes, the returned crates all have to be disinfected when coming back.

Mr. Argue: There is one matter I should like to draw to the attention of the minister on this item. I have a communication from Mr. Selmar Locken, secretary of the local lodge of the farmers' union at Ratcliffe, Saskatchewan. As the minister knows, Ratcliffe is south of Weyburn, within a few miles of