

Mr. GARDINER: I would have to get a considerable part of the detail from Regina.

Mr. BENNETT: I wanted to know that.

Mr. GARDINER: The persons whose names have been read are some who have been employed as inspectors at different points. I believe two returns asked for by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle have given that information. The first one gives a list of names, and the second gives the salaries and expenses. The payment is at the rate of \$125 per month, and the expenses vary from \$200 to \$300 per month, depending on the area in which they were serving. A man serving in Winnipeg would have a higher expense account than one serving at a smaller point. The greater part of the expense is made up of travelling by motor car at so much per mile. Most of the inspectors have had experience either as elevator men who purchased grain and handled commodities of this kind, or as practical farmers. They were sent to the points at which purchases were being made in quantities, and they graded and inspected the product after the provincial government had made the purchase. That is, the provincial government made purchases of hay, straw or grain as the case might be, and notified our department that purchases had been made at such and such a point from such and such a person. One of our inspectors would go to that point and grade the hay. Following that he would inform us what the grade was, and from that information we got the value per ton.

Mr. BENNETT: Who made payment?

Mr. GARDINER: I shall cover that point as I proceed. When the province notified the department we had inspections made and had the hay graded and priced, as set out in the agreement with the province. The price could not be more than \$8.50 per ton. If more than that amount was paid we did not pay any more. That was the limit we had to pay under the agreement for No. 1 hay. Then, it was graded down to lower grades at \$6.50.

Mr. BENNETT: Was that f.o.b. cars at point of shipment?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, f.o.b. cars at point of shipment. Costs of baling and that sort of things were taken out. Then the freight was added to that price at the point of shipment, and that freight would be checked. When the provincial department had all their accounts made up in accordance with the transaction they submitted them for payment to

[Mr. Bennett.]

the federal government. We had four or five officials at Regina connected with the branch of the comptroller of the treasury.

Mr. BENNETT: That is, the comptroller of the treasury had officials there?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, he had officials there to check these accounts. They were all checked and if found regular the amounts of money to cover payments were then advanced to the provincial government.

Mr. BENNETT: Whose cheque was issued in payment?

Mr. GARDINER: The dominion government's cheque was issued in payment to the province, and then the province paid it out in smaller amounts to the individuals. I believe it was paid by the province.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what I was anxious to ascertain.

Mr. GARDINER: That was all checked by our auditors as well as by auditors of the province.

Mr. BENNETT: Because complaints have been made that the persons who supplied fodder in Saskatchewan have not received their payment. That is why I am asking how payment was made.

Mr. GARDINER: Of course there have been cases all the way through in connection with the handling of feed and fodder in this and other years where disputes have arisen between individuals. Sometimes those disputes have been in connection with grades. Our officials would grade a product on the ground; but anyone who has had experience with the baling of hay knows that if you pack snow or ice with the hay there is a possibility of its spoiling. The question then arises at the other end, when it reaches its destination, as to whether payment should be made. There have been cases where payment has been held up either as a result of the condition of the fodder when it arrived, or because of grade, or for some other reason which has caused dispute between the two parties. I would say however that that has happened only in a small proportion of the total number of cases.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister said he was uncertain whether these payments were made by the dominion to the province for the entire quantities of supplies. Take the purchases of feed and fodder for the month of April. Our dominion inspector would certify that everything was in order. What would happen then?