

War Appropriation—Agriculture

farmers throughout the country in getting fertilizer at a more nearly equalized price, whether they live close to the plant or at a distance from it. That is the objective, and that is the reason for the change.

Mr. ROY: Looking at the figures, it seems to me that last year the government paid to the farmers under the subsidy over \$1,000,000. Does the minister expect to pay to the farmers throughout Canada as much this year under the new scheme of assistance as was paid a year ago?

Mr. GARDINER: It will probably work out at about three-quarters of a million this year instead of a million—about three-quarters of the total amount.

Mr. ROY: So that the farmers are receiving less.

Mr. GARDINER: Some are, and others more.

Mr. ROY: I am speaking of the farmers as a whole. Was the change in the policy from a subsidy to freight assistance suggested to the agricultural supplies board by the fertilizers advisory committee?

Mr. GARDINER: It came from the fertilizer administration after discussion with all the provincial governments. It came to the supplies board and from that board to the department.

Mr. ROY: What is the personnel of the fertilizers advisory committee? Who is the chairman?

Mr. GARDINER: The chairman is Mr. Peart. He is an official of the department.

Mr. ROY: And who is the vice-chairman? While the minister is looking up the information I will supplement the question. I do not know if my information was wrong because I was told that the chairman of the fertilizers advisory committee was Mr. Grubb. He is general manager of C.I.L., Montreal. The vice-chairman, I understand, is Mr. A. Mooney, general sales manager of Canada Packers Limited. I am told also that one of the members for Quebec is Mr. Thomas Pope, general manager of International Fertilizers Limited. Is there any representative of the cooperative federation of Quebec, which handles about seventy-five per cent of all the fertilizers used by the farmers in that province? Is there also on the committee a representative of any of the farm organizations of Ontario or of the maritime provinces?

Mr. GARDINER: Again I am afraid the hon. member is discussing another committee which comes under the prices board. The

[Mr. Gardiner.]

names he refers to are those of members of the advisory committee which is working with the prices board in connection with the prices of fertilizers. The controller of whom I am speaking is an official of our department having to do with the other matters to which we referred a moment ago.

Mr. COLDWELL: Is the price practically set by a committee of manufacturers who advise the board? However, that is not what I rose to ask the minister. To-day fertilizer is being used in the west as well as elsewhere and from time to time farmers have told me that it has been very useful, while on other occasions they have said that they do not see any material benefit from it. Is there any organization to which the farmers in the various provinces could apply and get advice as to the fertilizer they should use, the type of fertilizer and the quantity per acre, as it is with us, or on some other basis as in the fruit growing area? Have we such an organization to which farmers can apply?

Mr. GARDINER: For the information of the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Roy), may I say that the chairman of the fertilizer board is Mr. G. S. Peart; the secretary is Mr. A. M. W. Carter. These are two members of the board that I am speaking of when I refer to the activities in our department. The other question was to the effect that there are different results obtained from the utilization of fertilizer at different times.

The utilization of the same fertilizer may not give the same results at different times or on different lands. Of course there are two reasons for that. First, my understanding is that the commercial fertilizer shipped down from Trail to western Canada operates best under certain weather conditions. That is, if you have a dry season your results are different from what they will be if you have a fair amount of moisture. Then, there are different conditions all across Canada. The activities in the different provinces are different; that is, they require a different kind of fertilizer for potato crops in New Brunswick from what is required for grain crops in the west, and for that very reason it is best that those boards should be provincial boards, and they are provincial boards. The fertilizer boards that advise on matters such as those which have been referred to by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan are boards set up in each of the provinces. They do advise farmers as to what fertilizer to use and how to utilize the fertilizer that they are using. Application for information in that regard should be made to the Department of Agriculture in the province.