

Supply—Agriculture

Mr. Fulton: Has the minister figures to show how much was recovered from the sale of New Zealand meat?

Mr. Abbott: The amount recouped on the bone in carcass New Zealand meat was \$24,149,844.07. That was recouped up to March 31, 1953.

Mr. Fulton: Does that mean then that in effect the amount required to recoup the agricultural prices support account, to cover the net operating loss of the board, was \$37 million plus \$24 million, the \$37 million figure being the net figure?

Mr. Abbott: There were different kinds of beef. The total quantity of the bone in carcass New Zealand beef was 70,252,935 pounds, and the estimated total loss to March 31, 1954, on that transaction, was \$27,734,579.52, and the total estimated loss to March 31, 1954, related to foot-and-mouth disease was \$69,187,628.78.

Mr. Fulton: What I was trying to get at was this. The \$37 million appears to have been arrived at by crediting the account with \$24 million recovered from the sale of New Zealand beef.

Mr. Abbott: And other recoveries.

Mr. Fulton: And other recoveries?

Mr. Abbott: Right.

Mr. Argue: Has the board any meat on hand as a result of this transaction regarding foot-and-mouth disease, or does this clean up the total loss?

Mr. Abbott: This is the total loss. I still have to verify that, but the intention was to clean up the total loss this year. I make the reservation that there might be some minor items, but they would not be substantial.

Mr. Argue: The board has not any substantial quantity of meat on hand?

Mr. Abbott: No.

Mr. Bryson: Can the minister tell us how much money was paid out to compensate cold storage concerns for services rendered in connection with the amount paid under the prices support act?

Mr. Abbott: I am afraid I have no information as to that.

Mr. Bryson: I presume that this \$37 million and some odd is over and above \$200 million set out in the original fund.

Mr. Abbott: The \$37 million recoup restores the original fund of \$200 million as at March 31, including value of inventories on hand. As I pointed out a moment ago, the total loss on hogs and cattle related to the foot-and-

[Mr. Abbott.]

mouth disease outbreak was just over \$69 million. Last year we voted a substantial sum—I have not the figure before me—and this year we are voting this additional \$37 million.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

National Gallery of Canada—

555. Payment to the national gallery purchase account for the purpose of acquiring works of art, in conformity with section 8 of the National Gallery Act—further amount required, \$360,000.

Mr. Nesbitt: I should like to ask the minister a question on this item. It amounts to \$360,000 for the purchase of works of art. Can the minister tell us what works of art were purchased—I presume they are paintings—and what schools and who were the masters concerned?

Mr. Abbott: If we have to get into the schools I shall have to get someone who is a little more expert than I am in this field, Mr. Chairman. I can tell my hon. friend in general terms what works of art were purchased, but if he is not satisfied with the information I shall be able to give him we shall have to let the answers stand and my colleague, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, will be able to answer him, since he is a devotee of and an expert in that field. I am sure his answer will be much more satisfactory than mine.

Mr. Knowles: Were these the paintings which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* this morning?

Mr. Abbott: I do not read that section of the *Gazette*.

Mr. Knowles: They were on the editorial page.

Mr. Abbott: My colleague can answer the question.

Mr. Harris: The purchases are from different artists, all from one collection, however, and represent different schools of painting. I know some publicity has been given to these particular purchases, with opinions expressed in favour of them by persons with some art training, and criticism of them apparently by a well-known columnist.

Mr. Macdonnell: Was the last one without training? The minister said the previous one had art training, but he did not say anything about the other one.

Mr. Harris: I did not suggest that he did not have any. There have been remarks upon it in a distinguished newspaper known as the *Times* of London, and there are comments on this purchase. I only have this to say,