

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I interject for a moment to say that today I have allowed wider latitude than the wide latitude I have allowed regularly, since this may be the last day of the session. I do not like to stop an hon. member at this time, but may I ask all hon. members to endeavour to abide by the rules with respect to the asking of questions.

Mr. Hodgson: I refer to this question of dumping because the Minister of Trade and Commerce referred to it as dumping when he answered the question on December 21.

ARMY CLOTHING—PLACING OF ORDERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to a question asked yesterday on the orders of the day by the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair), which was as follows:

Is it true that the Canadian government has placed orders for army clothing in Britain, United States or France?

The answer is that no army clothing has been purchased in Britain, the United States or France with the exception of 75,000 pairs of socks of United States pattern and 50,000 pairs of cotton field trousers purchased in the United States last April and May to outfit Canadian troops training in the United States and proceeding to Korea. There was also an order for 2,590 kilts, involving seven different tartans, which were purchased in Scotland by the Department of Defence Production.

However, textiles have been imported when not available in Canada, but this has been done only after consultation with the industry. Wherever possible the material has been purchased in the greige, to be finished in Canada.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN

MARSHLANDS—EXPENDITURES UNDER RECLAMATION PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. Black (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture about some questions I submitted on November 2 with respect to certain expenses in connection with marshlands reclamation. This is not by way of criticism of those who have the matter in hand; it is for the purpose of getting information for a great many people who want it. The questions were made an order for return and I have never received it. My questions were submitted on November 2.

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the only reason why the return has not been brought down yet

is that we would have to send down to the maritimes for some information and probably it has not come back yet. As soon as I get the information, I shall see that the hon. member gets it, whether the return is down or not.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): I wish to thank the minister for his courtesy.

[Later]:

Mr. Robert McCubbin (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, if you will permit me to revert to motions I should like to lay on the table parliamentary return No. 25, moved for by Mr. Black (Cumberland); subject: What was the total expenditure under the marshland reclamation program, by projects?

Mr. Black (Cumberland): I am very pleased to get that return, but I should like to have a copy of it, if I may, as the mover of the motion.

Mr. McCubbin: We will try to get one for the hon. member.

POULTRY

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN NOVA SCOTIA—USE OF VACCINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. Black (Cumberland): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if the vaccine used in Nova Scotia as a preventive against the possibility of Newcastle disease in poultry had the opposite effect and actually infected the hatcheries with this serious disease with the result that the birds vaccinated actually died by the thousand, and the disease was spread where there was none before, and is now a menace in whole communities. Are the owners to be fully reimbursed for the birds destroyed? Are the owners of hatcheries and others to be reimbursed for the loss of business?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have legislation under which payments are made when farmers lose livestock because of the ravages of certain diseases. Under that legislation payments are made when the poultry has been destroyed as a result of the ravages of Newcastle disease among poultry. There has been some discussion with regard to the vaccine which has been used for the purpose of combating the disease. That question came first from the province of British Columbia. We have had considerable discussion with persons involved there. Since the outbreak in the maritimes we have been having some similar experience, but the matter of dealing with it has not gone sufficiently far yet for me to say definitely