

Questions

4. Was the text of the official statement communicated to the Minister of Agriculture before it was issued to the public?

Mr. Diefenbaker:

1. June 10, 1962.

2. The Prime Minister was aware that the press reported the Minister of Agriculture as having made reference to devaluation.

3. The text released by the ex-minister of finance reads as follows:—

I would ask to table that statement, or have it made part of the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that it should be printed as part of the answer?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: The statement referred to above is as follows:*]

I have been asked whether the exchange rate for the Canadian dollar, which was fixed at 92½ cents in U.S. funds on May 2, to take effect May 3, is to be regarded as definitive.

With the approval of the Prime Minister, I wish to make it clear beyond question that the rate of 92½ cents in U.S. funds is definite and final. We chose this rate after careful consideration of our balance of payments outlook. It has been legally established by the government with the concurrence of the international monetary fund. No other rate and no other exchange system is being considered or will be considered by the government.

We are determined to maintain the 92½ cents rate against pressures of any sort. The very extensive financial resources available to the government will be used to defend it. The government is fully aware that its financial and economic policies basically determine the value of the Canadian dollar and the Canadian people can be assured that these policies will be of a character which involves no further reduction in the exchange value of the Canadian currency.

4. No.

HEALTH OF ANIMALS CONTROL, ARGENTEUIL-DEUX-MONTAGNES, QUE.

Question No. 462—Mr. Drouin:

1. Is the Minister of Agriculture aware of the distribution of a circular letter, signed by Mr. H. Troalen, of the health of animals division, to farmers of Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes warning them that the cost of controlling accredited and listed herds would, from now on, be charged to owners of those herds, should they wish the said control to be continued?

2. Does the minister approve of the new policy of the health of animals division?

3. Is the said new policy attributable to the present austerity program?

4. How many head of cattle will thereby be removed from the control of the health of animals division (a) in Canada (b) in the province of Quebec (c) in the county of Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes?

5. How many farmers will be affected by this measure (a) in Canada (b) in the province of Quebec (c) in the county of Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes?

6. What amount is expected to be saved thereby?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Answer by: Mr. Pigeon:

1. The minister is aware that information was sent by department officials to herd owners informing them that the cost of testing tuberculosis accredited herds in tuberculosis accredited areas and brucellosis-free listed herds in brucellosis certified areas would, in the future, be borne by the herd owner.

Under the tuberculosis accredited herd policy and the brucellosis-free listed herd policy individual herds are tested and certified free of those diseases. Since the inception of each of these individual herd policies, area policies have been introduced under which all susceptible cattle in an area are tested and the area as a whole certified as a tuberculosis accredited or brucellosis certified area. The area policies have, therefore, replaced the individual herd policies as the means of controlling and eradicating tuberculosis and brucellosis in Canadian cattle.

The individual herd policies are to be continued but in order to make departmental veterinary manpower available for essential disease control work, including area testing, the owners of herds operating under the individual herd policies are asked to arrange to have the testing done, at their expense, by private practitioners approved by the department. The probable cost to the herd owner will be about \$1 per year per animal tested.

2. Yes.

3. See answer to question 1.

4. No animals will be removed from the control of the health of animals division, which will continue the official certification and listing of individual herds tested under the arrangement referred to in the answer to question 1. In addition, all cattle to which the revised policy applies are under the control of the health of animals division in area eradication programs for the same diseases.

5. The number of tuberculosis accredited and brucellosis-free listed herds are as follows:

	Accredited Herd Plan	Brucellosis-Free Listed Herd Plan
(a) Canada	8,496	4,115
(b) Province of Quebec . .	1,152	366
(c) County of Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes	62	31

6. While there will be limited financial savings the primary purpose of the revised policy is to free departmental veterinary manpower for other essential disease control activities.