

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): Last year I brought up the question of the prices received by our farmers for No. 2 C. W. barley and other high quality barleys which they had shipped to the terminal at Winnipeg. They found they were receiving less than was being paid for inferior quality barleys. The spread between high quality barley and the lower grade feed barleys is not sufficient and the result is that many farmers are not producing high quality barley. I would suggest to the minister that he remove the ceiling on malting barleys in order that the price may be higher for these better grades.

Item agreed to.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Northumberland, Ontario, would like to have the committee revert to item 7, bacteriology and dairy research, \$79,498. Will the committee consent to reverting to that item?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. DROPE: Would the minister explain the increase of \$3,863?

Mr. GARDINER: The details are set out on page 83 of the main estimates. It will be noted that for 1946-47 there was voted \$4,350 for an agricultural scientist, grade 6; there is an increase of \$150 in that item. Then the next item, agricultural scientists, grade 5, shows an increase of one, or \$3,810. The next item, agricultural scientists, grade 4, shows the same number, but there is an increase in the pay. The next item, agricultural scientists, grade 2, shows an increase in the number and the amount is increased from \$5,580 to \$8,700. The next item, assistant bacteriologists, is not shown for this year. Then there is a new position, clerk, grade 3, \$1,809. Then there are two other positions which have disappeared, stenographer grade 2 and laboratory assistant, the reduction in each case being \$1,380. Then there is a new position, assistant technician, at \$1,380. On balance, there is the difference between \$32,160 and \$35,013.

Production service—
Health of animals—

17. Administration of Animal Contagious Diseases Act and Meat and Canned Foods Act, \$2,372,599.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I notice in the minister's report there is a paragraph dealing with tuberculosis which reads:

Assistance to stock owners in the control and eradication of this disease is provided under the restricted area plan, accredited herd plan and

[Mr. Gardiner.]

the supervised herd plan. Progress under all plans has been restricted due to an acute shortage of veterinary inspectors.

Could the minister make some statement as to the situation with regard to veterinary surgeons in Canada? I understand that the number graduating from the veterinary colleges is not large enough to fill the vacancies which normally appear in the Department of Agriculture. I understand that in the Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia governments action is being taken to help cope with this problem. Would the minister indicate whether the federal department is considering ways and means of increasing the number of veterinary surgeons in the country?

Mr. GARDINER: We employ full time all the qualified personnel we can get. In addition to that, we have made provision for utilizing veterinarians all over Canada. Up until this year or some time last year we required these veterinarians, many of whom had taken their examinations thirty or forty years ago, to take another examination in order to qualify to do this work. Since all these men who are being considered have been and still are constantly in practice it was thought they might be employed under existing conditions without the special examination, and in that way we have many more men on now than we would have been able to get even on part time. The work is advancing much more rapidly than before. That is one of the chief reasons for the increase in this item.

Mr. NICHOLSON: The minister did not answer the first part of my question. I understand that in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia the provincial governments are making grants with a view to assisting students in the veterinary colleges. In view of the minister's statement that a shortage of veterinarians is crippling the work of the department, has the federal government considered making grants to students with a view to encouraging them to attend a veterinary college? I find from page 172 of the report that the percentage of prospective slaughters for each province varies from 24.65 per cent in Ontario to a very small percentage in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. It is well recognized now that the inspection of animals has been a factor in reducing the deathrate in different parts of the country. Since a shortage of veterinary surgeons makes it impossible to have proper supervision, it would seem to be reasonable to include an item in the estimates for the purpose of increasing the number of veterinary surgeons who would be available in the near future.