

Supply—Agriculture

Yesterday, I read in the papers that the disease had now reached the epizootic stage in the riding of Nicolet, where 3,500 animals had to be slaughtered to date.

In the neighbouring areas there were many centres of infection, nine in Arthabaska, 10 in Drummond, 23 in Nicolet and 18 in Yamaska. That was on February 14.

I do not have the latest figures here, but, according to the press, the situation is very serious.

I therefore would ask the Minister of Finance whether he has any comments to make in order to reassure the farmers of that area, who hope to see that epizooty stopped as soon as possible.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have no information with regard to widely scattered constituencies, but if the hon. member would submit a definite question, I would make the necessary inquiries and let him have any information I would receive.

Mr. Boulanger: I would like to know whether the minister is aware of the causes of that infection in that district.

This is what a news item published in the Sherbrooke paper *La Tribune*, said on March 25 last:

According to Dr. Armand Methot, of Acton Vale, the epizooty is now regressing.

The causes of the disease are attributed to hog imports from the United States, because of the contacts through a lack of sanitation in handling the animals.

According to comments which circulate in my riding, the disease is due to hog imports from the United States.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I must repeat to the hon. member that I have no information to give him with regard to that epizooty. If he would submit a specific question, I would get the information for him.

(Text):

Mr. Pitman: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take advantage during the discussion on this supplementary estimate to put forward the suggestion to the Minister of Finance, in co-operation perhaps with the Minister of Agriculture, that animals destroyed because of rabies be brought within the regulations of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, so that the owners could be compensated in this regard. I understand some months ago there was a rabies epidemic and that compensation was made by the federal government through order in council on the basis of 40 per cent by the federal government, 40 per cent by the provincial authorities and—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I would like to remind the hon. gentleman that this discussion on supplementary estimates is not

[Mr. Boulanger.]

the same as the discussion on the first item of the department and therefore we must confine our consideration to the individual items.

Mr. Pitman: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I simply wanted to ask the minister whether it was possible to compensate farmers in this regard.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That matter does not arise under this item. I am informed that question has been discussed in previous sessions but I think the hon. member will have an opportunity to raise it during the consideration of the main estimates of the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year 1961-62.

Item agreed to.

Livestock division—

663. Supervision of race track betting—further amount required, \$35,000.

Mr. McMillan: Mr. Chairman, I notice that this involves \$35,000 as compared with the amount last year for supervision of race track betting, and I wonder why the government has to spend that amount?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): As the hon. member is aware, this is a service that does produce a revenue. In this particular case the additional sum of \$35,000 is required to meet the increase in the cost of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police supervision as a result of the higher salaries granted to R.C.M.P. personnel, effective September 1, 1960.

Mr. Benidickson: Frankly I was not aware, and perhaps I should have been, that there are costs related to the R.C.M.P. under various departmental estimates other than the estimates of the department of the Minister of Justice. Are there many of this type of charge in votes that would not show under the R.C.M.P. vote which apparently covers the total cost of maintaining this federal police force? In other words, if members of the R.C.M.P. were to perform a service on an Indian reservation would a vote of this kind be found under the Department of Citizenship and Immigration? Apparently in this case they are operating under a federal statute in providing a service to the rack tracks in the form of supervision, but the cost is charged to the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am not aware of any other votes of this type, Mr. Chairman. This is an item respecting a service and of course a charge is made for the service, but revenue is yielded. As a matter of fact the revenue yielded is expected to be in the amount of \$712,000. This is not a service through which the crown is out of pocket. This is the only service that the R.C.M.P.