

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

holding 39 live cattle on community pasture in western Canada valued at \$7,741.89 including all added costs up to March 31, 1953. The board has sold some 2,457,913 pounds of boneless beef prepared to American army specifications to the Department of National Defence for use in supplying Canadian and commonwealth troops in Korea. This operation has been carried out at no loss to the board. The board still holds 14,806,507 pounds of frozen carcass beef, 5,930,184 pounds of boneless manufacturing beef and 26,563 pounds of beef offals in Canadian storages.

This, I think, gives fairly complete statistical information concerning the operations of the board up to the present time.

Mr. Argue: Has the buying of beef from packing houses now ceased?

Mr. Abbott: Yes.

Mr. McLure: I take it, in respect of all these items, that we can get all the information required at a later time, when the main estimates are before the committee?

Mr. Abbott: That is right. I should have explained that these are our year-end supplementaries. With certain exceptions, no new question of policy is involved. It is simply a case where, in preparing the main estimates, we have not voted amounts sufficient fully to implement agreed policies. These sums are to provide for payments of the necessary amounts before the end of the year.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
B—National Gallery of Canada—

562. 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, \$276,000.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): This supplementary vote seems to be out of all proportion to the amount voted last year. Could the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration give some explanation of the purchases made?

Mr. Harris: Hon. members will recall that about a year and a half ago we appointed a new board of trustees for the national gallery and passed an act incorporating the national gallery in a somewhat modern manner. The board of trustees took their duties seriously and after much study suggested to the government the purchase of three paintings which they thought should be added to the gallery at this time to indicate, shall I say, a little greater interest in the gallery than has been the case heretofore.

[Mr. Abbott.]

I think the committee will realize that in the past we have voted sums ranging from \$80,000 to about \$130,000 to cover the annual purchases of small items of art and the like. There happened to be an opportunity to acquire three rather valuable and distinguished acquisitions for the gallery and in view of the fact that the board was made up of prominent citizens who are on the civil side but nevertheless acquainted with the art world it was felt proper that we should meet their wishes at this time as an earnest of our desire to have the gallery really constitute a national body for the dissemination of art throughout the country.

Mr. Graydon: Before these paintings are purchased will the minister cast his talented eyes in art over them?

Mr. Harris: May I say by way of amendment my own eyes have been passed over the paintings.

Mr. Adamson: What are the pictures?

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Who are the artists and what did the pictures cost?

Mr. Harris: I could give the names and the figures in private and they will be made known eventually, but at the moment I should like to ask the indulgence of the committee as the desire is not to disclose the names until they are really acquired.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): They have not been acquired yet?

Mr. Harris: No.

Mr. Graydon: That would not be a secret order in council, would it?

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION

E—Crown companies—

563. To provide for expenses incurred by Defence Construction (1951) Limited in procuring the construction of defence projects on behalf of the Department of National Defence—further amount required, \$232,016.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I should like to know more about this item. Although the amount of \$232,016 may seem small when compared with the huge figures we have to deal with in connection with national defence, nevertheless I want to know a little more about it. First of all we have the Department of National Defence, then we have the Department of Defence Production, then we have Defence Construction Limited and then Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I understand that there are one or two additional items for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.