

Supply—Agriculture

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Speaker, is it understood that the member for Broadview has adjourned the debate?

Mr. Knowles: No, the member for Temiscouata.

Mr. Speaker: Do I understand the member for Broadview has not completed his remarks?

Mr. Church: I have not finished.

Mr. Speaker: I understood the member for Broadview was still speaking when I interrupted him to say it was six o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Dion in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Experimental farms services—

14. Central experimental farm, \$1,330,560.

Mr. Knowles: The other evening when this item was before the committee the hon. member for Winnipeg North asked the minister certain questions about the experimental farm here at Ottawa. The questions had to do with the additional acreage purchased in recent years and the price paid for it. Has the minister the answer to these questions?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): I shall have the answers as soon as my officials are here with them. They were all prepared. I left them to be brought in. Probably the officials did not think we would get to this item quite so soon. I suggest that we let this item stand for the time being and return to it later.

Item stands.

15. Branch farms and stations and illustration stations, \$3,819,403.

Mr. Gardiner: I suggest that this item stand also.

Item stands.

Production service—health of animals—

17. Administration of Animal Contagious Diseases Act, and Meat and Canned Foods Act, \$2,868,297.

Mr. Graydon: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I have to rise again for about the third time in three sessions to bring to the minister's attention a matter which is of paramount importance to those who are directly affected. Perhaps I should wait until item 18 is called, but I shall continue on item 17 and what I have to say will apply to item 18.

In connection with inspection for tuberculosis in certain areas in Ontario, and it applies as well to a certain case in Nova Scotia, in former years the question of compensation for those reactors which went down under the T.B. test was a matter of acute concern because there were two special cases: one, that of a man near Stayner, by the name of McIntyre, and the other, that of a man in Nova Scotia whose name I am not able to recall at the moment. In the McIntyre case, which I raised in the house in previous sessions and do not hesitate to raise again because of the principle involved, the herd had been tested for T.B. for years before. In 1946, if my memory serves me correctly—I did not bring my notes down with me, but the minister will know of it because it has been brought up before—a further test was made, and of 44 cattle in his herd 43 went down. At that particular time the vaccine or the serum had been changed. Those who are acquainted with veterinary science and are more familiar with it than I am will bear me out when I say that, when there is a change in the vaccine, very often strange reactions occur in the test and sometimes herds which are normally regarded as completely free from tuberculosis go down and are taken to the abattoirs. The farmers lose their first-class, registered producing stock and they are sold at the slaughter price. It is true there is compensation; but, as the minister knows, it does not come anywhere near meeting the loss that the farmer sustains in losing as large a number as that.

When the vaccine was changed these cattle all reacted. As the minister knows, a check is always made in the abattoirs to see whether or not there are signs of T.B. in the meat which comes from the slaughtered reactors. If my memory serves me correctly, in this case only one of the 43 cattle was found at the abattoir to show any sign whatever of tuberculosis. One of them showed some signs of having had pneumonia at one time, but that fell somewhat short of tuberculosis. Naturally the farmer was much concerned about it. It practically put him out of business. Time after time urgent representations were made to the government but nothing whatever was done. He has had to suffer because of that. In addition, when I brought the matter up in the house two or three years ago for the first time a man in Nova Scotia wrote to me saying that he had had a similar experience. It is not widespread. If it were, perhaps the government might conceivably be somewhat influenced by the question of financial outlay which would be involved. So far as I know, there are very few cases of that kind. Because there are