

Supply—Agriculture

nature of the compensation. For instance, a number of farmers bring to my attention the fact that where their cattle have been destroyed or at least have been found to be unfit for human consumption by reason of those animals suffering from lockjaw, there is no compensation. There have been quite a number of cases recently in which farmers have taken their cattle to the packers, where it has been found that they were suffering from lockjaw and claim for compensation was denied. Why is there that restriction?

Mr. Harris: I am afraid I cannot answer that question. I am devoting my attention only to those items that we are recommending for payment. Discussion on whether these animals ought to be paid for, I would suggest, could be had on the estimates for the coming year.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): I should like to ask the minister how many cattle were treated for septicaemia under this program and how many were in different shipments? I should also like to know the total shipments which were made, those shipments which were treated and those which were not treated; and also in those shipments which were not treated, how many died. I should like to have that information if any record is made of those shipments.

Mr. Harris: The total number of animals which were subjected to the test ran to 9,400. Of those, we are paying for 73.

Mr. Bryce: I do not know whether or not the minister has this information, but on what basis is this compensation paid? Is it so much a head, so much a hundredweight or according to whether the animals were purebred or commercial animals?

Mr. Harris: I notice that the payments vary from a low of \$77 in one case up to a total of \$1,100 in another, so I take it that it was on the basis of the value of the animals.

Mr. Bryce: The \$1,100 would be for how many?

Mr. Harris: Eleven animals.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): Perhaps I did not make myself completely clear. What I wanted to know was how many cattle that were treated died and how many that were not treated died. I take it we are trying to determine the effect of this experiment and I should like to know how successful it was.

Mr. Harris: As I understood it, my hon. friend asked how many were subjected to the treatment and how many died. I gave

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

those figures, 9,400 and 73. What is the other figure he is asking for?

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): The number of cattle that were untreated which died. Then I would have a comparison.

Mr. Harris: I am sorry, but I cannot hear.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): How many were shipped which were not treated and which died of septicaemia?

Mr. Harris: The figures I have relate only to those which were treated. I have no information as to the numbers that were not treated because we are not concerned with those.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): Then I take it we cannot have the information which would enable us to decide whether or not the experiment was successful. It could very well be that there were few losses among those which were not treated. In that case the experiment would not be successful. If the minister does not have the information, I suppose we will have to leave it at that. I should also like to know something with respect to a rather new disease, and I think it would come under this item. I want to inquire about what is termed the black disease which is a type of blackleg or septicaemia. The symptoms are rather difficult to diagnose. Has the department made any provision to investigate that disease which is occurring in western Canada, particularly in Saskatchewan?

Mr. Harris: My answer again must be what it was to the hon. member for Prince Albert. We are concerned here with the expenditure of money for certain purposes, and if the hon. member has other questions in mind he can ask them on the main estimates.

Mr. Charlton: The minister has suggested that this is an experiment and has said that 9,400 animals were tested. As I understand it, they are given an injection at Winnipeg to ward off hemorrhagic septicaemia. Is it a case of some of the animals having died after the injection? What happened to them? Where did it happen? Did it happen in the railway yards, on the trains coming east or after they arrived here? Under what circumstances were the animals slaughtered?

Mr. Harris: The animals died at various times. Some of them arrived in the east and were treated a second time and then died on the farm. Others died in transit. Of the 9,400, approximately 500 showed some signs of this disease and 73 died at one time or another.