

Supply—Agriculture

in fighting the disease were there, and that was their judgment of what happened at that meeting. That was the answer that was given to them, and they accepted it and went off to see that the matter was carried out that was indicated, and it has been carried out down to now on that basis.

If the committee will bear with me I would just like to say that, in spite of all that has been said, there never has been an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease anywhere in the world that was picked up as fast as this one was, and there never has been an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease anywhere in the world that was wiped out as fast as this one has been, and entirely put under the ground.

Mr. Cardiff: You hope.

Mr. Gardiner: One has to keep his fingers crossed when he makes a statement of that kind because, after all, we have only gone three weeks since we have had any new cases of the disease, and we have some hope that we will not have another outbreak. I get a wire every morning from those who are working on the job, and I always wonder what is going to be in the wire. Up until now the wire has been: "No new outbreaks of the disease." It comes in every morning regularly, and each time it comes I am better satisfied with what has happened up to date. The summary, the only summary I can give, is that all animals that had the disease, all the animals that came in contact with any animals that had the disease, all of the produce, such as eggs, and chickens that had been on the places where the disease has been have been destroyed. They are now buried underground under a liberal layer of lime and the disease is being destroyed. That is the position up to date.

We have made a complete survey of all the farms along Wascana creek and have found that quite a number of herds that did take the disease had been drinking out of the stream during the wintertime, but some of those that had been drinking out of the stream did not take the disease. We have all the facts with regard to that.

All these facts can be given before the committee when it meets after the Easter holidays. Everything related to them will be available to members of the committee and I think that is the right time to get it. Just to satisfy the curiosity of those who want to know, in spite of the fact that I should not be discussing it, I would say that this statement which I made and which was referred to earlier in the debate and was ruled out of order—therefore I presume this will be out of

order also—this statement, delivered to the Kiwanis clubs, which I said was a correct statement, said this:

We are considering ways and means of taking care of this situation.

That was the fact that our market in Canada has not been and never will be able to take care of the amount of beef that is likely to go on the market. My statement continued:

We are considering ways and means of taking care of this situation. We are asking farmers to retain stock on the grass this summer rather than rush it on the market. We are exploring possible markets. We are hoping to make this possible through arrangements which will so stabilize returns to farmers as to assure credits and at the same time protect consumers against high costs.

We hope to have a plan ready for submission to representatives of provincial departments of agriculture by a week from tomorrow, April 2.

April 2 is the day after tomorrow. We have plans ready to be presented to the provinces, at least suggested plans, but we cannot adopt anything in connection with the program until we have the co-operation of the provinces, which we expect to get the day after tomorrow and the day following that. Until we have had this discussion with the provinces it would be not only improper but impossible for me to come here and lay down plans which we say we are going to put into effect and then call the provinces and ask them what they think about what we have announced to the house. We do not intend to do that.

We have said to the provinces right from the beginning, "this is your problem as well as ours; we require your co-operation in putting into effect any plan that may be established." Just as soon as we have had discussions with the provinces, and they will take place the day after tomorrow, we will proceed to complete our plans in accordance with those discussions and the arrangements entered into.

I cannot give you that tonight. I will not be able to give it earlier than Friday, and I am not sure that I will be able to do it then. It will depend upon the discussions that we have on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. Argue: I believe I have a copy of the statement which the Minister of Agriculture has in his hand. It is headed:

Speech by Right Honourable James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, to joint meeting of Kiwanis Clubs of Ottawa, at luncheon, Coliseum, Tuesday, March 25, 1952.

That is a prepared statement. The minister does not say that he is presenting to the conference a policy to stabilize beef prices. We all know the minister and we appreciate that he can make an hour's speech with very few notes. This prepared statement covers two pages and I am sure it could be read into the