

Brunswick the strawberry crop will soon be on. Our strawberries are the latest in any part of eastern Canada to come on the market. In the south half of the county of York, the county of Sunbury and the county of Queens, the big strawberry producing country, the surplus goes to the Montreal market, and they feed it in gradually so as not to disturb the price and so as to keep it, of course, as high as possible to the producer. In the upper part of the county of York and the county of Victoria and Carleton the practice has been for buyers from the adjacent state of Maine, where they do not raise many strawberries but specialize in one crop, namely potatoes, to bring quart baskets over and then take them across the line. Strawberries always command a good price in that market. It is a ready local market immediately adjacent to that part of New Brunswick. An order was put out by the board, I understand, that none of these strawberries were to be exported without a permit. I understand there are about 250,000 quarts of a surplus besides what is used for local consumption and home canning, and when inquiries were made as to what was to be done with these strawberries, the officials of the board replied that the strawberries were to be sent to Montreal for processing, in a market that was already supplied, so far as fresh strawberries are concerned, from the areas I have indicated. To do this would have broken that market.

I have taken the precaution, as others have done, to make representations, and I am hopeful that the decision will not be adhered to because, instead of getting twelve cents f.o.b. Montreal for these berries, the growers will get twenty cents in Woodstock, New Brunswick, for fresh berries, and they will not have to supply crates, as they would have to do if they shipped the berries to Montreal. The crates are never returned to them. Buyers across the line supply the crates, and all the growers have to do is to cultivate and pick the berries and put them into small boxes and then into the crates and away they go, and the growers get their money at an advance of eight cents over anything they could otherwise hope to get. That is an illustration of the ineptitude of this board. There is no question of keeping the ceiling down, because the first berries that came into the market at Saint John sold at fifty cents a quart. I hope the position will be retrieved before it is too late, but that is the situation as it was this morning.

Mr. MacNICOL: Just a word in reference to what the parliamentary assistant to the minister has said about salaries. I find myself

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

in agreement with a portion of his remarks in reference to giving out information about the salaries of men or women lent by companies to the government. It would be most "infra dig" to give any salaries paid to anyone lent by a company to the government, without the consent of the company. I remember how important this was regarded in the case of the list of salaries paid to employees in big companies, which were known only to one or two or three of the personnel, and I recall very well that it was almost impossible to find out what any of the officials of a company received by asking, because the heads of the company would not reveal that information, and rightly so. Before the government gives out the salaries of any of the men lent by companies, the companies should be asked for consent. These men are paid by the companies themselves who are latterly reimbursed by the government, and the consent of the companies ought to be obtained before the salaries are revealed.

Mr. ILSLEY: This matter of salaries in the wartime prices and trade board has given me a good deal of difficulty. The salaries are reasonable; I am satisfied of that. The salaries of those getting less than \$5,000 have been practically all fixed by the civil service commission. The salaries of those getting more than \$5,000 have been fixed by the governor in council and sometimes, though not always, on the recommendation of the civil service commission. But they are not very high salaries. The highest salaries paid are, I believe, considerably less than \$10,000. It is well known that the board, in many instances, is paying men exactly what the companies paid them. They borrowed the men, as the hon. gentleman says, from some company and remunerate the company for the amount. They pay what the company paid the men, and for that reason the board has been most reluctant to make public these salaries.

Something has been said about salaries being out of line with one another. I do not know whether they are. It is always a matter of argument whether salaries are out of line with one another. But it must be remembered that this organization was got together under circumstances of terrific pressure and was built up from 150 to 5,000 in a year or two. It is harder and harder to get men. In most cases the men have been paid what the companies paid them, while in other cases they have not been so paid, having severed their connection and being taken on, on a different basis. It causes a tremendous