

## Supply—Agriculture

**Mr. Charlton:** The minister said you could double it?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Approximately, yes.

**Mr. Charlton:** Well, according to my mathematics twice 26 is 52.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Certainly.

**Mr. Charlton:** All right. The minister said 52 cents could be added right away to that canned pork.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I still say that.

**Mr. Charlton:** Then I say what happens to the head cheese made from the head, the jowl, or the piece of bacon—or what they call bacon—off the jowl, the fat that is rendered out of the head and neck, the hocks that are quite valuable—they are hard enough to get, goodness knows—and the pickled pigs' feet? Where does the price of these products come in?

**Mr. Gardiner:** If we go into the whole detail of it, the costs of preparation, including the cost of the tin, run up to about 15 cents. If you went into the whole thing it would take a lot more accounting than I have given. I simply say this. The amount you get out of a hog that you put into the can is approximately half the weight of the hog; and if the hog costs you 26 cents, then that which goes in costs 52. But the whole accounting is done by taking all you get back by way of credit and charging it up against the cost of preparation and the other costs in connection with the canning of the hogs. That works out at a net difference of 12 cents, roughly speaking. It has got down; when we got greater volume, it got down to 10 cents. It was approximately 12 cents to start with and it has worked down to 10 cents, through the volume, of a difference in the net between the actual return and the actual cost of putting the pork in cans.

**Mr. Charlton:** I suggest that had the minister made that statement at the beginning, we might have avoided all this argument we have had because he has now admitted that it is not 50 per cent at all.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I did not make that statement.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Before the item carries I should like to make one passing comment on the remarks of the hon. member for Wellington North. I am not prepared to discuss with him the intricacies of the packing business but I should like to suggest to him that I hope he is more accurate in his information on that subject than he was upon the political and journalistic set-up in this

province. When he stated that the *Globe and Mail* was the official publication of the Conservative party in this province, I presume that if someone suggested that, we will say, the *Winnipeg Free Press* was the official publication of the Liberal party in Manitoba, that statement might sometimes be repudiated by his party and might sometimes be repudiated by that paper. Certainly there is no official publication for the Conservative party in this province. I merely want to keep the record straight.

**Mr. Darroch:** I stand corrected, Mr. Chairman; but I still maintain that it tries to be.

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** Have any commodity groups asked for support for their products in the past year, other than those mentioned?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Assistance was asked for cranberries and for lambs. Those who produce lambs in Alberta asked for some assistance during the time the foot-and-mouth disease difficulties were being experienced. The cheese people also asked for assistance and later changed over to the plan that is now operating as between the Ontario producers and the provincial government. We have guaranteed their accounts under the Agricultural Products Marketing Act of 1949. But there is no floor price there. That is a guarantee against loss in handling the product the way they are handling it. I understand that poultry producers have asked for it within the last week.

Item agreed to.

52. To provide for a contribution to the federated women's institutes of Canada to help defray the costs of the international conference of the associated country women of the world to be held in Canada in 1953, \$10,000.

**Mr. Coldwell:** This is a small item, but will the minister explain what it is for?

**Mr. Gardiner:** It is for the federated women's organization. They are having a world convention here next year, and we are putting up this amount to help them in defraying expenses.

**Mr. Catherwood:** This is one item to which I think all hon. members can give their unqualified approval. If there is any organization, particularly in rural Canada, that is doing fine work it is the federated women's institutes of Canada. I think this item to help defray the costs of their convention is a recognition of the splendid services they have rendered, and I am pleased to see it in the estimates.