

Supply—Agriculture

borrowing authority that would normally be asked for and obtained in, say, May or June.

Schedule agreed to.

Schedule C agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: By leave, shall this bill be read a third time now?

Mr. Knowles: By leave.

Mr. Harris moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Production service—

Health of animals—

552. To provide for payment of compensation to owners of animals or poultry affected with diseases coming under the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, which have died or have been slaughtered in circumstances not covered by the above act and regulations made thereunder, and to provide for payment to owners for loss of cattle during treatments for immunization against hemorrhagic septicaemia, all as detailed in the estimates, \$7,725.

Mr. Charlton: Is the Minister of Agriculture going to be here to answer these questions, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Harris: No.

Mr. Charlton: Can the minister advise me about the first item amounting to \$7,725? I am not criticizing it. I am just curious as to how and when they started this practice of paying this money out for animals that died, I presume, from the time they are immunized at Winnipeg until they arrive at Toronto or probably at the farm. I wonder whether the minister will explain that point.

Mr. Harris: As I think my hon. friend knows, last year it was decided to experiment with respect to certain diseases that overtake animals and also with respect to the treatment to be given especially with regard to those animals that are shipped from the west to the east. The result was that, in the course of carrying out this experiment, certain cattle died. The items set out here totalling \$6,090 are the intended payments to the farmers who would ordinarily stand to lose. I notice that most of them or, in fact, all of them, are in the east and a large number of them are in western Ontario.

Mr. Charlton: That is to be taken for granted, Mr. Chairman, because they are all feeder cattle coming in from the west to western Ontario.

Mr. Harris: That is right.

Mr. Charlton: I do not think they have much trouble with anything else.

Mr. Harris: No.

Mr. Charlton: They are immunized at Winnipeg.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): I should like to ask the minister this question. Do I understand that these are cattle that have been treated for septicaemia and thereafter have died?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): If these cattle were treated prior to shipment, it seems most unusual, does it not, that they should die? That is the regular procedure in the shipping of cattle, according to my information and knowledge of the shipping of cattle. We generally have little loss if the cattle are immunized for septicaemia prior to shipment. This would seem to me to be a heavy loss if they were properly immunized prior to shipment. I wonder whether there is any further explanation with regard to that matter.

Mr. Harris: No. I do not think any further explanation can be made, Mr. Chairman. The fact of the matter is just what I said before. This was an experimental treatment of animals. As a result, certain animals died; and the department feels that they ought to bear the loss rather than the owners who agreed to submit their cattle to this experiment.

Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain): I wonder just why the department undertook this experiment. In respect of cattle going to the ordinary feeder channels through the Winnipeg market, the farmer undertakes his own responsibility. Is this going to be a procedure that is extended to all farmers shipping feeder cattle or is it merely with respect to those coming to eastern Canada?

Mr. Harris: I presume that from time to time the Department of Agriculture will carry out these experiments and tests under the conditions that they think would be most appropriate. It might be the shipment of feeder cattle one year; it might be some other form another year.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I should like to ask the minister one question with regard to the