

Mr. SENN: I should like to second very heartily what was said by the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe) and the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Hayhurst) as well as the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) as to the benefit to be derived from the further distribution of pure bred sires. One has only to go to the Toronto stockyards and look at the cattle gathered there from day to day to realize the very great need for better sires in this province as well as throughout the dominion generally. A large proportion of them are nondescript animals. It is often difficult for a farmer who wishes to buy a carload for feeding purposes to get them of uniform grade. Assistance or encouragement of some kind should be given to farmers to carry on line breeding to a greater extent. At the Toronto stockyards one sees cattle of no breed, animals that are a mixture, and degenerated to such an extent that they are not profitable to raise and not only bring very little return to the farmer but bring the whole cattle industry into disrepute. It would be well if we could have some zoning arrangement by which certain breeds could be found in one particular area—dairy cattle in one, shorthorns in another, and so on. It is essential to encourage as much as possible the breeding of pure bred cattle. Breeders of such cattle have not enjoyed much prosperity in recent years. They have often had to sell them at a sacrifice, particularly the male animals. If the government could take a few more of these pure bred animals off the breeders' hands it would be a great help, and would encourage them not only to carry on but to breed better and better animals. They are the backbone of the live stock industry; they supply the foundation stock for better herds.

Then I wish to refer to the sow distribution policy. I do not know how the government is finding these animals at the present time or where they come from. A good deal of fault has been found by breeders of pure bred swine with the practice of getting these sows from the stockyards. I do not know whether that is carried out at the present time or not.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, that is the way they are secured, from the stockyards.

Mr. SENN: I protest against that system. They may be bought at a little lower price, but what encouragement is given to the breeder of pure bred swine? A large proportion of every litter are sows, and if he cannot sell these for breeding purposes, and the farmers in the district are being provided with "mill-run" sows from the stockyards—

Mr. GARDINER: They are selected, but they are grades; we do not attempt to select pure bred sows.

Mr. SENN: A lot of them are good animals, but it places the swine breeders at a disadvantage. When they have good animals that they have gone to considerable expense and trouble to raise, it is discouraging to have to send them to the stockyards to be sold at no premium over ordinary stockyard prices. I think the department would be well advised to discontinue that practice. If they wish to furnish farmers in the country districts with breeding sows, they should purchase them from the breeders of pure bred animals who have spent their time and money in building up good herds of swine. They can get these good animals in any quantity.

Mr. PERLEY: I wish to endorse what has been said by the last two or three speakers. I would urge the minister to have a thorough survey made of the situation in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan breeders have been as hard hit as any in that branch of the industry anywhere.

Mr. GARDINER: If I may interrupt, I promised some hon. members of the opposition that I would bring up certain items today, and I think the question which is now being discussed could be better discussed under those items than under the one we are now discussing. I therefore suggest that this item be allowed to stand, and that we take item No. 477.

Item stands.

Special—To provide for the payment of freight on the return of live stock and equipment from places of feed supply to the dried-out areas in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, \$100,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This would seem to be an appropriate place to ask the minister for some information which I cannot expect him to provide at this moment, but which I trust will be made available to the committee before the item is adopted. What quantity of hay and fodder did we import into Canada from the United States? What price per ton did we pay for it? What number of bushels of oats and other grains did we import from the United States? What number of bushels of wheat did we import from the United States? What were the prices paid per bushel for oats and for wheat? What was the cost of transport from the United States to Canada paid by this government for all this feed and fodder?

A further question is: Have these been actually paid? I have received complaints that hay supplied from Manitoba to the