

Agriculture to definitely settle this question of tuberculine test which is most important to those interested.

In conclusion, I desire to make a pressing appeal to the minister. The producers of milk and cream in my constituency find themselves in a painful and even disastrous position in shipping their products to Montreal because of the action taken by the municipal authorities as a health precaution. These men will be unable to continue their trade unless their animals are tested. I request the hon. minister to come to the relief of these people by authorizing without delay the testing of their herds. I should like the minister to give orders for the payment of the indemnity which the law allows should the county of L'Assomption be put in a special zone. Does the minister intend to assist the milk producers of L'Assomption by giving them the help they need so badly?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): There is a strong possibility that we may carry on some work in the county of L'Assomption, and immediate consideration will be given to those who ship milk to the city.

Mr. RHEAUME: Can the minister tell me when he is going to retest the herds in St. Johns-Iberville? These herds were tested two years ago. The herds in Missisquoi county were retested last year and they were first tested after the herds in Iberville had been tested.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The first work to be done will be that of retesting herds.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words along the same line as the hon. member for L'Assomption (Mr. Séguin). I deprecate also the reduction in this vote covering the administration of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act and the Meat and Canned Foods Act, and more so when I am told that the testing of animals for tuberculosis comes under this vote. I was made aware some time ago that representations had been made by people in the county of Charlevoix-Saguenay asking for the establishment of a zone in that district, and in December I communicated with the minister and asked for the establishment of this zone. The answer I received was that this work was not being proceeded with because of the scarcity of money. I have received a communication from a representative of the provincial government who is interested in this county, in which he deprecates the fact that this work was not gone on with last year. Is the minister able to assure me that

[Mr. Séguin.]

this work will be proceeded with this year and that the zone promised will be established?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The retesting of herds will take up the entire time of the staff, and no new areas will be opened up until these retests have been completed.

Mr. LUCAS: A number of years ago a system of grading of dressed beef was established in the abattoirs. I think it was a voluntary system, with what were known as red and blue labels, which gave the consumer some idea of the quality of the beef he was receiving. Can the minister say whether or not any success has been achieved along this line?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): That would come under live stock, and there has been no curtailment of the work in that branch.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Can the minister give the committee some idea of why such a large reduction has been made in this important vote? Will it result in any of the veterinary staff being demobilized? Will it result in no new work being undertaken in regard to restricted areas? Will it mean the attention of the department will be confined to retesting herds in the various districts, for instance, Nova Scotia? That province is an excellent place to test out the restricted area policy because it is practically an island, almost as much an island as is Prince Edward Island; with its natural water boundaries it provides the least possibility of recontagion. That province has not been retested, if I remember rightly, for three years or possibly more. I know there was a reason for that and I can excuse my hon. friend for keeping away from that area as long as there is any considerable remnant of the 1928 row still existent. But now I think the good sense of the stock owners of that province has prevailed. There were only three or four persons who made the row; ninety-five per cent of the stock men were quite satisfied with the free area policy. This only indicates what a tremendous racket a few men can make. I do not think the province as a whole should be penalized because of the recalcitrancy of four or five men whose good sense, I am sure, must have returned by this time. My hon. friend will forgive me if I cannot hear him at this distance, but I shall read Hansard for his reply to me.

As regards the area adjacent to this capital city, a few days ago everybody took great delight and pleasure in having an area here that could be looked upon as free from tuberculosis in dairy herds. When the dairy