

*Supply—Agriculture*

ditions surrounding these farms in order to give a general statement with regard to all of them. But as to the farm here, the rates which are paid upon these farms are related to what is being paid for similar work by those who are engaged in similar employment in the locality right around here. That is, a carpenter is paid something that has some relationship to what is being paid in the city.

**Mr. Knowles:** I should like to complete the picture. The minister suggested quite correctly that I had quoted some of the lower rates and not the higher ones. May I give the two highest figures that were included in the information given last February. A carpenter is listed as getting 96 cents an hour and a foreman carpenter gets the top rate of \$1.03 an hour. I do not know what carpenters' rates are in this city, but I know that they are higher than that in the city from which I come, and I imagine they are higher than that here in Ottawa. If the minister is going to say that this is the prevailing rate, I would ask him to bear in mind the fact that these people live in Ottawa, which he will agree is a rather expensive city to live in. I hope serious consideration is being given to adjusting these matters.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Of course there is a reason why a carpenter might be paid more in the city of Winnipeg than these men are being paid, and there is a reason why a carpenter who is employed in the city here might get more, if you just figure the days he works and the payment he gets per day. These men are continuously employed. As to the carpenter in Winnipeg, on most of the jobs I have seen conducted in that city there are many days in the wintertime when he is not employed and certainly not fully employed. On days when it is 40 below zero or more there is not much outside work being done in that area. In the work we have there, these carpenters are available. We have inside work available for them and they are carrying on right through the year. Any work that has to be done on the inside is done in the wintertime. So their wages might not be as great as those some groups might be drawing under union pay in Winnipeg for a shorter period of time.

**Mr. Knowles:** That is hardly a satisfactory answer.

**Mr. Harkness:** I am still not at all satisfied about these buildings at Lethbridge. The minister has now told us that they cost in the neighbourhood of \$400,000. I do not for a minute think they cost that much. Quite frankly, I think the minister is mixed up in his figures and is a little bit confused on the subject.

**Mr. Gardiner:** As a matter of fact, I think the minister does not know any more about it than does the hon. member who is speaking. I have the figures which are given to me by the persons who are presumed to know, and I can only give the hon. member the answers they give me.

**Mr. Harkness:** If the minister will give us a breakdown of those figures, I think we shall find that some of the money he indicated is for the building is actually for the cost of carrying on experimental work and so on. I do not think that the cost of the building was the \$400,000 approximately which the minister gave. If it cost that much, I certainly have a few more questions to ask about it, but I do not think it did.

**Mr. Gardiner:** My information is that it is all for capital expenditures in connection with the building. It might not be all for the building—

**Mr. Harkness:** It may be for equipment, for I do not think it is for the building.

**Mr. Gardiner:** It does include equipment; it will include plumbing and a lot of other things. It may include digging some ditches in order to get the water to where the plumbing is. It will not necessarily be just for the building itself, but everything associated with the building. There will be the building of roads through the grounds and everything else associated with it.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Chairman, we are still going around in circles. I still have not the information for which I asked the day before yesterday. I wonder whether the minister could bring in a breakdown of the building costs so that we shall know where we stand. After all, \$400,000 is not "hay", as we say in my part of the country.

**Mr. Gardiner:** What the hon. gentleman asked for was the cost of this plant. He got the cost of the plant. If he wants something different, then he can put a question on the order paper indicating exactly what he wants to know and I will give him some figures within forty-eight hours. The figures are given to him exactly as he asked for them: he asked for the cost of that plant and he has the cost of the plant. In spite of what he says, I say it is the cost of the plant. If he has any way of proving it is not, then we shall have to get him some other figure.

**Mr. Harkness:** The Minister of Agriculture is now suggesting a most unusual procedure so far as this house is concerned; that is, that instead of getting the information on the estimates item by item, I should put a question on the order paper. If there is any time during the course of this session when