

other items carried, but I could not let it pass without commenting upon the remarks of the hon. member for Melville.

I am asking the Minister of Agriculture to be more generous with the farmers of Canada than was the hon. member for Melville. I am asking that more compensation be paid to the breeders of steers. I am interested in this matter because of the total steers exported from the province of Quebec, the county of Compton exported over one-third.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If the hon. gentleman does not know anything about this act his criticism would be quite reasonable, but it seems to be based upon an entire lack of information of the cattle compensation business. I could not catch all that the hon. member said, but I heard enough to understand that he thought the compensation should not have been reduced. The prices for cattle during wartime were away up and the break did not occur until 1920. Late in 1921 we came into office, and the session of 1922 offered the first opportunity of doing anything in this regard. The cattle then were hardly worth drawing to the market in Winnipeg, and surely the hon. member must agree that there should be some relation between compensation and the value of the animal.

Mr. GOBEL: Are the prices of cattle higher this year than they were last year?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think the prices for good stuff might be a little higher, but I do not think that would be the case as far as dairy cattle are concerned, because in that case the prices of the commodities produced are now at a low level. There must be a fluctuation in the compensation to compare with the fluctuation in the value of the animals. We could not change it every day or every year; my recollection is that it has not been changed since the time I mentioned, but surely my hon. friend is not suggesting that the same compensation should be paid now as during wartime.

In order to give the owners of small herds an opportunity to participate, in accredited herds they were reduced from ten to five animals. I might say that the officials of the department agreed to that reduction only under protest. They told me how it would work out, and they were correct. Abuses crept in and it was found necessary to put the figure back to ten.

I might mention to my hon. friend that there is no other country in the world which pays as high compensation for T.B. slaughtered animals as does Canada.

Mr. IRVINE: I understand the committee is dealing with item No. 117, covering the administration of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act. The grave misgivings I have with respect to myself, and my concern for the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell) leads me to ask whether or not any portion of this vote will be expended in this chamber.

Mr. VALLANCE: Some of it should be expended on the electorate.

Mr. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, I will make a short reply to the hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance). I think the hon. member will agree that one of the soundest principles of basic agriculture is that we should have as far as possible the best blood in our herds so that the largest return can be received for the feed given and the labour expended. The farmers in the outlying districts found it very expensive to locate animals which would have a tendency to improve their herds. I think I am safe in saying that on an average it would cost them as much in expenses as it would to pay for the animal itself. It was only sound economics to use the people's money to place into the hands of these farmers sires of the best possible type at the lowest possible cost. Our bull policy has been that where a group of farmers got together and requested a sire, we would undertake to supply the kind requested. Perhaps due to the depressed condition in the wheat market, farmers are turning more than ever before to the raising of live stock. The result has been that we have not been able to fill all the applications received. We have placed over 765, but that is only about 60 per cent of the applications received. Practically my only instructions to the department have been that the animals sent out must be well above the average in standing. If this is not done the results aimed at by this policy will not be achieved. I think hon. members of the committee will agree with the stipulation which has been made that the farmers in the outlying districts must be given preference in this regard.

Another policy inaugurated was the brood sow policy. As I said before, because of the low price of grain many farmers were turning to the raising of live stock. Where the production of bacon was being considered it was thought that it behooved this government to make it as easy as possible for the farmer to get the best type of brood sow. Our policy has been to keep back from the stockyards the sows of a selected bacon type and to supply these to the farmer for breeding purposes without any expense. The farmer was asked to pay only half the freight, and