

producing that commodity to supply their goods to some group of individuals who have no investment in that industry. Take the live stock industry as an example. I question whether the minister can mention any responsible group of live stock men who to-day are suggesting to him the taxing of the entire production of live stock in Canada in order to bonus the small exportable surplus. So I would suggest to the minister that if it is the intention of the government at this late hour to set up a marketing board, the wisdom of which I doubt, some consideration should be given hon. members, who should have an opportunity to express the views of those vitally interested in this scheme.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I should like to take just a few moments to reply to some points in connection with this item which is supposed to be under discussion. The hon. member for Assiniboia referred to the reduction in this vote, but that decrease of \$175,000 is due to the ten per cent reduction in salaries and to a change in the method of dealing with traveling expenses. Apart from those two points, this item has been increased by \$25,000.

The hon. member for Assiniboia suggested that the farmers were worried because of the reduction in this vote; he suggested that they were wondering if they would get the money for their clubs and so on, and he particularly mentioned the stallion clubs. Some time ago we decided, because of the difficulties experienced in the formation of clubs this year, to make a special grant in addition to the other assistance ordinarily given. The hon. member also made the statement that at present many farmers were unable to buy better live stock and improve their herds. We realized that fact also, and if the hon. member had consulted the department he would have found that the matters he brought forward have been and are being well looked after.

In connection with the purchase of live stock may I say that we have filled all the applications received, to the extent that we have been able to do so with the stock we have been able to secure which is up to the standards set by the department. With regard to the decrease in grants to fairs and the effect that it may have on breeders, I believe the average constructive breeder does not breed live stock for the purpose of showing it at fairs; he breeds live stock in order to sell it.

Reference has been made to prices. We all know that prices the world over have come down, but this country has not suffered in that regard as much as some other countries. I am credibly informed, for instance, that in the

memory of the oldest farmer the price of bacon in Denmark has never been so low as it is at the present time. The point was also brought up that tariffs never were as high and prices never as low for farm products as is the case at present. One commodity on which we have never placed a tariff is wool, but the price of wool has dropped more than the price of almost any other farm commodity. We cannot fairly discuss this question as it affects one country alone, because no country can stand alone in this connection.

Mr. SPENCER: The minister said, presumably in reference to the bull policy, that all applications had been filled where stock could be obtained. Could he tell the committee what percentage of calls could not be filled because of the lack of stock?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): There were five hundred applications, and we estimate that we can fill four hundred of them.

Mr. VALLANCE: What report has the minister received with regard to the success of the bull policy and the boar policy? Have these policies been successful, according to the information received by the minister from the various individuals or clubs who have taken advantage of them?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The best answer to that would be that last year we put out over 800 bulls under the bull loaning policy, and we have had in the neighbourhood of 650 to 700 letters, commending us on the policy and stating how valuable it has been to the farmers. Some of the letters praising us most highly came from farmers whose birthplace is the same as the hon. member's, and who appreciate good live stock better than the average farmer. They express their appreciation in this way, that after having been able to have good sires for a number of years they were unfortunately forced to go out of the business, and they declared that no words of theirs could convey what this policy meant to them. Regarding the brood sow policy, there was made in the house the other day a statement which misrepresents the situation. I made it clear at the time that policy was announced that I was not advocating farmers going into increased production in pigs, but owing to the fact that coarse grains were so cheap, and the price of pigs being so high at that time, nothing that we could do could prevent the farmers from going into the increased production of pigs. Realizing that, we made it possible for them, at no extra cost to themselves, to get seed stock which we