

Supply—Agriculture

Practically every year tobacco growers sustain heavy losses due to draught or hail, especially hail.

Could the minister tell the house whether he has communicated with the Quebec authorities with a view to extending the application of the Crop Insurance Act to Quebec?

[Text]

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Pigeon: No, Mr. Chairman. I addressed a direct question to the minister and I want an answer.

Mr. Pickersgill: It has nothing to do with this item.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister of Agriculture a specific question and I should like to have an answer.

Mr. Favreau: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The item now before us applies only to Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island—

Mr. Vincent: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would remind the Minister of Justice that crop insurance applies to all Canadian provinces.

[Text]

Mr. Pickersgill: Not this vote.

Mr. Vincent: We are discussing crop insurance which may apply to all the provinces of Canada, provided they enter into an agreement with the federal government. We know that at the present time the federal government is in consultation with the province of Quebec with regard to crop insurance, and the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm has asked the minister—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I should advise the hon. member that this particular vote, 171e, applies to Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan only.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: If I am not mistaken, Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with an amount of \$9,342 that has already been paid to the provinces of Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. Then, the other provinces have nothing to do with that item.

Therefore, since the money has already been spent, I cannot see why we should not approve that item in favour of those two provinces and wait until the regular estimates are brought before us to claim the rights of the province of Quebec.

[Text]

Item agreed to.

20220—104½

172e. Estimated amount required to recoup the agricultural commodities stabilization account to cover the net operating loss of the agricultural stabilization board, including loss resulting from revaluation of inventory, as at March 31, 1964, \$122,235,000.

Mr. Cardiff: This is the largest amount we have come to yet. I wonder whether the minister would mind explaining this item to the committee.

Mr. McIlraith: The item is to provide more accurate information for the House of Commons and it is comprised really of two different amounts, the actual losses on sales of commodities purchased and sold at a lower price, and on the inventory held over, with the valuation taken as of the time the estimates were prepared, which in this case was January 31, 1964. Therefore the item as shown should be an accurate reflection of what the situation was.

Mr. Nowlan: It does not involve a payment of any kind.

Mr. McIlraith: No.

Mr. Thomas: Does this involve the consumer butter subsidy?

Mr. McIlraith: No.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that this item is such a large amount and in view of the fact that the right hon. Leader of the Opposition pointed out so very well to the house that we should examine these matters carefully, I think we should call it ten o'clock.

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Chairman, may I remind the house, without wanting to press any issue, that we have been dealing with these supplementary estimates for seven days already, and while we are not pressing to increase the number of hours of sitting, I am quite sure that most of us would be pleased to sit one additional hour tonight so that the minister may answer more of the questions of the hon. members.

Mr. Churchill: We are quite prepared to sit an additional hour, but I regret very much that the minister should say that we have taken seven days on these estimates because, as he knows, this is quite incorrect. We had 30 minutes on one day and one hour on another day. Let us not get into that argument. If the minister really wants co-operation, that is not the way to get it. However, we are content to sit for another hour.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Irrespective of whether it is seven days or whatever it is, it has taken us three days to get down to the consideration of the estimates before the committee. I still say we should call it ten o'clock.