

Supply—Agriculture

Mr. Charlton: Item No. 48 in the old estimates was the same, and I see that \$100,000 was chopped off this year in the regular estimates but it is added here.

Mr. Gardiner: It will be noted that in the general estimates the item was cut from \$350,000 to \$250,000, but when it came to the supplementaries we thought there should be an equal amount this year and this was put into the estimates. Whether or not it will all be used has not been determined.

Mr. Charlton: Is this assistance to land clearing in the west?

Mr. Gardiner: Not necessarily in the west; it is anywhere in Canada.

Mr. Charlton: But most of it is spent in the west?

Mr. Gardiner: Well, we spent \$100,000 in Ontario down around lake Erie a couple of years ago.

Mr. Charlton: This is interesting. On lake Erie?

Mr. Gardiner: Yes, Erieau, I think it is called. It is south of Chatham, anyway, and there is an area there, as I recall it, where they have about 1,500 acres very intensively operated for the production of vegetables.

There is a dike alongside which protects the area from the lake. As a matter of fact, I think the land is below lake level a little and there has been a dike there for years. People had actually built their summer homes on the dike and the waves coming in from lake Erie were washing away the dike. Some of the houses had even been undermined.

The provincial government and the farmers had been carrying on, and the farmers had been taxed so much an acre. The provincial government was putting up a certain amount for a number of years, but they found the process pretty slow and they applied to us for some help. We put up dollar for dollar with the province for one year and completed it. I understand that if it had not been completed the washing away that has taken place in some other areas along the lake is small compared to what would have happened in that district. It was just a speed-up, and we used \$100,000 on that occasion.

Item agreed to.

675. To provide for price adjustment on overweight hogs, \$100,000.

Mr. Argue: I would like to have an explanation from the minister of the formula that is being used for price adjustment, and to ask how producers can obtain price adjustments.

Mr. Gardiner: That has to do with the request we made to farmers at the time the foot-and-mouth disease hit first, to hold their hogs off the market until they were further instructed. Three weeks prior to the 19th April we said that the 19th April would be the last date on which the adjustment would be paid. This \$100,000 was to take care of extra payments on account thereof.

Mr. Argue: To whom is the money paid?

Mr. Gardiner: The money went to the hog producers through the packing houses that bought the hogs.

Mr. Argue: Has this anything to do with a man who sold his hogs for 14 cents a pound and feels that he has a price adjustment coming to him? Or is this something else?

Mr. Gardiner: The only hogs upon which payment was made were hogs that did go overweight which otherwise would have been A or B. It did not apply to the so-called extra heavyweight hogs because they were probably overweight before.

Mr. Argue: Have the farmers been issued their cheques?

Mr. Gardiner: Yes. The other man you have just spoken of has been taken care of by the packing houses in many cases. Where farmers were paid only 14 cents and should have been paid 18 or 19, under the arrangement we made for canning the pork the packing houses in many cases should have made adjustments and in many cases they have done so. I do not think every farmer who was entitled to it made application, but many of them who did received the adjustment.

Mr. Argue: This is not for hogs that are graded extra heavy with the price quoted at 14 cents a pound.

Mr. Gardiner: No.

Mr. Argue: Those farmers cannot hope to receive anything more.

Mr. Gardiner: I would not say that. I have a letter on my desk today from a farmers' union which says a certain farmer did get an adjustment but another did not, and they want to know how the one farmer did get it. The only reply I could give was to write whatever packing house he delivered the hogs to, and probably there will be some adjustment. If there is not he should write to us, and we will take it up.

Mr. Argue: What adjustment is given?

Mr. Gardiner: The case mentioned here was 4 cents a pound. Apparently the farmer received 15 cents or 14 cents and they later put it up 4 cents.