

Mr. STIRLING: What would the minister describe this forty-seven millions as?

Mr. GARDINER: It is producers subsidies, given for the purpose of getting greater production.

Mr. PERLEY: How much of a staff does it take to carry this on?

Mr. GARDINER: I understand that this is about the staff, sitting at this table, with two or three more, that handles this particular thing.

Mr. PERLEY: Well, if all the boards were correspondingly small I would be "tickled to death". I think it is a compliment to these men, and an achievement for other boards to work up to.

Mr. GARDINER: We sometimes get a little criticism for not having outsiders. Practically all of the work during the war has been done with our own staff.

Mr. BURTON: Would the minister explain this item under the heading, "agricultural food board, administration, \$68,175"? I was comparing it with the corresponding item under the special products board, of \$50,190. In respect of the disbursement of \$47,600 the cost of administration is about the same as under the very small item of the special products board.

Mr. GARDINER: The special products board handles, of course, quite a number of different products. It deals with everything except meat, which is handled under the meat board. Dairy products are handled under the dairy products board. Everything else is handled under the special products board.

Mr. SENN: I think what the hon. member means is that, if there are only three or four people administering this particular item, \$68,175 is quite a lot of money to pay.

Mr. GARDINER: In explanation of that I may say that there are the travelling expenses of our inspectors, a few of them, and also the travelling expenses of the advisory board that most members are very anxious we should have. That amounts to a considerable sum of money. We bring in people from all over Canada as an advisory committee for the food board, and they are brought in on a number of occasions.

Mr. SENN: Then you must have a larger staff than you indicated.

Mr. GARDINER: That is not staff. They are people who are brought in from around the country as representatives of provincial government and farm organizations.

Mr. PERLEY: The amount stated by the minister as expendable in Saskatchewan and [Mr. Gardiner.]

Manitoba is so small that he will not require a large staff of inspectors to carry on in those provinces.

Mr. NEILL: Did I understand the minister to say that this is the item which covers the subsidy to milk producers?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. NEILL: Perhaps he can explain this situation. I am asking for information. Somebody moved for a return the other day, and it was brought down. What was asked for was a statement of the various market areas, I think they are called, and I see there is a large number of them throughout Canada, including several in British Columbia, but there is not any reference to Vancouver island. I know there are some payments made on Vancouver island; there must be one or more areas. Why was Vancouver island omitted from this return which was brought down?

Mr. GARDINER: The return is for the twenty-five cent market only; and I understand that all of Vancouver island is fifty-five cents in the winter and thirty-five cents in the summer. The reason why the island was not reported in the twenty-five cents return is that it receives more than the areas which are contained in that return.

Mr. NEILL: How would we find out about the fifty-five cent areas? Ask for a separate return? It would not have hurt the department to have covered both payments in the return.

Mr. GARDINER: There are 525 areas which are getting fifty-five cents; among them is the area of Vancouver island. Those can be listed, but it would be quite a list. I do not know whether anyone has an interest in getting them, but I think the best way to get this is to ask a question or ask for a return and have them all brought down in the return.

Item agreed to.

MINES AND RESOURCES

Mines and geology branch—development of tar-sands of Alberta. Remodelling and expansion of plant of Abasand Oils, Limited, \$500,000.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): The hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) had some discussion on this matter when the estimates of the Minister of Munitions and Supply were before the committee. The hon. member for Davenport is absent to-day, and he indicated that he would like this particular item to stand until he is here. That is quite agreeable to me, and I suggest that we might take the next item.

Mr. PERLEY: That is all right. I was going to ask the minister one question with