

Foot-and-mouth disease

we are supposed to know what we are paying out, and why. In effect, what this legislation says, and it has already been done so far as the board is concerned, is that there is going to be a board set up. Since the member for Lake Centre wanted to know what I said to Mr. Beatty, I told him that there was to be a board set up which would be sitting in Regina in the office of Mr. George Robertson in the wheat pool building, and it will be sitting until further notice. I said, "You are quite at liberty to place your appeal before this board and put any arguments you wish before the board." Those arguments will be properly considered and reported to me as minister. So far as I know, Mr. Beatty is satisfied with that. He has not made any—

Mr. Drew: What date was that?

Mr. Gardiner: Last Friday, after your letter was written. It was for that reason I asked the question about the date of the letter.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Possibly the minister would read the wire of approval from Mr. Beatty to which he referred.

Mr. Gardiner: I did not refer to a wire. I said there had been no complaint from Mr. Beatty since, so I assume it has met with his approval. Mr. Beatty knows me personally—

Mr. Rowe: Evidently.

Mr. Gardiner:—and he would not have any hesitation in calling me by long distance if he had any complaint to make. Apparently after receiving the wire he did not have any, and I assume he went to see the board. Every one of those animals will be inspected by a competent inspector who will suggest the valuation which will be placed before the board. The board will consider his valuation. Two members of the board live in the area—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Who are the members of the board?

Mr. Gardiner: I asked treasury board to put one member on the board, and they readily agreed. Mr. G. W. Stead is to be a member.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Who are the other members?

Mr. Gardiner: The manager of P.F.R.A. pastures, Raymond Youngman, and Mr. G. W. Stead of the treasury. The Chairman is Mr. George W. Robertson of the Saskatchewan wheat pool. All these men are qualified to deal with livestock and the paying out of money, the two things which are under consideration. This board will make a report

[Mr. Gardiner.]

to the Minister of Agriculture, and the minister will recommend to the government what the payment ought to be.

The suggestion is made that the farmers ought to know what that payment is going to be. I venture to say that within a very few days after this legislation is passed, perhaps even a few hours after it is passed, Mr. Beatty's case will be dealt with. When it is dealt with, there is no reason why the facts should not be published in the local papers. Then everyone will know about what the treatment is going to be. They can sit down and calculate their own position as compared with that of Mr. Beatty much more readily than can any member of this house, and they will be able to interpret, within \$5 or \$10 a head, what they will get for their livestock under similar circumstances.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why should a general principle not be enunciated?

Mr. Gardiner: There is a general principle. The general principle is that somebody must go and look at the stock, see what it is worth and report it to someone else. It finally comes to the government and we determine it.

Mr. Rowe: There is a difference of more than \$5 or \$10 a head between Mr. Beatty's herd and the herds in western Canada.

Mr. Gardiner: Not the purebred herds in general.

Mr. Rowe: Oh, yes.

Mr. Gardiner: The purebred herds in general will compare favourably with Mr. Beatty's herd. Mr. Beatty's herd is a show herd. It will be one with a comparatively high value. As I said a moment ago, I know Mr. Beatty. I know him only through correspondence, through the fact that he has been showing cattle, and that kind of thing. But I know that he is the type of farmer who will compare favourably with many who are in that district. When the farmers get the valuation that is placed on Mr. Beatty's stock, and if he is satisfied, many other people are going to be satisfied that they are going to get fair treatment. May I say in passing that I do not know which way Mr. Beatty votes, just in case my hon. friends have anything of that kind in mind.

Mr. Drew: Obviously the minister is going to do his best.

Mr. Gardiner: He will be dealt with as a farmer, as one who is producing livestock, and on no other basis. When he receives his payments, I think the other farmers will all learn what they are, and they will know the