

policy in Quebec we thought we should apply it to all the provinces in eastern Canada; but the opinion of the department is that the policy which is being followed in the other provinces is the one we should continue, and therefore we are discontinuing the policy in Quebec in order to bring it on the same basis with the other provinces.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): Is the department discontinuing the grants according to the grade of sire under the bonus policy, under which a grant was made to all who wished to buy that quality of sire, and is that policy to be replaced by a bull loaning policy? In other words, are certain clubs and farmers to be given the use of a bull free?

Mr. GARDINER: The bull loaning policy is one under which we purchased the bulls outright and loaned them to clubs. That policy is being continued right across Canada. There is no change in that at all.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): Would the minister give us some idea how many bulls are owned by the department now for bull loaning purposes?

Mr. GARDINER: I am sorry I have not the number before me at the moment.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): What was the number purchased last year?

Mr. GARDINER: Last year we purchased between fifty and sixty bulls.

Mr. PERLEY: What steps are being taken to meet the serious situation in Saskatchewan because of the demand for bulls under this scheme? I understand that there have been over two hundred applications, and the situation is serious. I think some desperate effort ought to be made by the department to meet these applications.

Mr. GARDINER: We have not been able to meet all the demands in Saskatchewan. I do not imagine we have been able to meet all the demands in any province, but in view of the difficulties experienced in Saskatchewan during the last year or two we have given more consideration to that province than to any other. Applications are being made now for an increase in the number, but we are compelled to deny any increase in what we have been able to give up to the present.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): This appears to me to be a very weak substitute for the bonus policy.

Mr. GARDINER: It is not connected with the bonus policy.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): I appreciate that. But the minister has intimated that the bull loaning policy has been selected by the department as being the most helpful to the live stock industry.

Mr. GARDINER: Might I correct that? There has been no bull bonusing policy outside Quebec except in Ontario for about two years, I am informed, but that was discontinued previously. Probably it is the wrong term we are using.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): It is a bull premium policy.

Mr. GARDINER: There is no bull premium policy in Ontario, I am informed, and has not been for some time.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): It does appear to me that this is one of the most essential forms of assistance that could be given to the live stock industry, to improve the sires generally. I think we have been rather slow, under all governments, in our policy of eliminating the scrub sire, as the term is. Steps have been taken to improve sires in the different parts of the dominion, but I find that from 1930 until 1936, years when revenues were low, the department purchased annually almost 500 sires for bull loaning purposes. Now, the minister tells us, despite the report of last year stating that the continued popularity of the bull loaning policy is apparent from the fact that each year applications for assistance are greatly in excess of bulls available, just a few minutes ago we heard from the hon. member for Qu'Appelle that there are 200 applications still unfilled in Saskatchewan.

Mr. GARDINER: Perhaps if I just correct the statement I made a few moments ago it will have some bearing on what has been said. When the question was asked by the hon. member for Haldimand how many were purchased last year, the figure given me was between fifty and sixty. What the deputy had in mind, apparently, was the number purchased in Ontario. The total number purchased right across Canada last year was 283.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): I might point out that even if the total number purchased last year was 283, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle told us just now that there are 200 unfilled applications from farmers in the drought stricken areas of western Canada who find it impossible to buy a desirable type of sire. I am quite confident that there are over 200 in Ontario who would gladly make application if they thought the sires were