

Supply—Agriculture

Mr. Gardiner: There is no question that he was sick when he left here. There is no question he did go home because he was sick. I am told by those sitting behind me that he is in bed today. If he got up out of bed yesterday in order to attend the meeting, I suppose he did what many of us do. I do not think it is necessary to say anything more than that with regard to the matter. All the members of the chamber know the hon. member for Middlesex West very well, and they know that he is not pretending to be sick at a time when he is not sick.

As to the settlement that has been made, I do not think it is possible for me to go into all of the details and I very much doubt if the hon. member expected me to go into all of the detail.

Mr. Ross (Souris): No. I said that.

Mr. Gardiner: I think if I give the total figures it will be as far as I can go at the present time. The total amount which these accounts total up to is \$311,449.14. The total value of the animals under the act itself is \$242,512.10.

Mr. Abbott: That is the Animal Contagious Diseases Act?

Mr. Gardiner: Yes, that is the Animal Contagious Diseases Act. The total amount under the bill there is \$68,939.02. I would call attention to the fact that these are the amounts for the animals alone, not for feed or any other allowances that may be made. It is only for the animals. I am not in a position to go into detail further than that because after all the board that was set up at Regina was a board to make recommendations to the minister, and the minister made recommendations to the government. The recommendations made to the minister are unanimous. As the committee knows, there were three members put on the committee: one representing the department itself; one representing farmers in general in the area; and one representing the Department of Finance. Then there were four individuals appointed, two of them being employees of the government and two of them being representatives of farmers. These four men examined the different herds and made reports to the board, and the members of the board were unanimous in their decision. There was no difference of opinion among them at all. They made a unanimous recommendation with regard to every case and with regard to the total. I received those on Friday, as I indicated. I went over them all and had my staff go over them. We made a recommendation to the government that that be accepted. It was accepted by the government today and is being returned to the board at Regina with the suggestion that the

[Mr. Ross (Souris).]

matter be reviewed, in view of the fact that agreement has been reached, and payments be arranged for. That is the position at which we are at the moment.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Chairman, the total amount of the estimate in relation to the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak is \$500,000. I contend that this \$500,000 should be considered as merely a token payment from the government on account of this national emergency. I believe that the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, the loss of the American market valued at \$121 million last year, with embargoes placed on trade between the provinces, amounts to a national emergency.

The people of Canada, particularly the producers who are most affected, expect the government and parliament to treat them fairly and generously. We have been faced with other national emergencies in the past such as the Fraser valley flood, the Winnipeg flood, and the fires at Rimouski and Cabano, Quebec. Those were considered to be national emergencies and they were treated as such. In my opinion the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak should also be considered a national emergency. One could not determine that it was being considered as a national emergency by the government, judging from the size of this estimate. The supplementary estimates that were brought down in this house to deal with the Winnipeg flood amounted to some \$13,500,000. I was glad to support those estimates. I feel that this estimate is only a small part of the amount the government should be paying because of the serious consequences of the present outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease. Since the debate on this item took place, the size of the area affected within the boundaries that have been set up has been greatly increased. The quarantined area amounted to some 2,500 square miles, but as I calculate the size of the quarantined area plus the buffer area, the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak now directly affects farmers living in an area of some 18,000 square miles. The other day I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question as to whether the government was planning to allocate the market fairly amongst producers and the minister made particular reference to the producers within the quarantined area. The minister said this, as reported at page 709 of *Hansard*:

The only control of that kind which is in effect—

I had mentioned a quota on the marketing of livestock.

—has to do with the quarantined area and the buffer area; and any arrangements which it has been necessary to make have been agreed to internally. There is no difficulty there at all. The stock that is coming on the market is being marketed and the price level to consumers is satisfactory. Up to the moment we have had less difficulty there than anywhere else in Canada.