

Supply—Agriculture

for Lambton West. I am sure the minister admitted that the compensation paid at the present time is much better than the compensation paid in 1948. I do not think the hon. member for Lambton West was criticizing the amount paid now, but was criticizing the fact that the amount paid now is so much greater—

Mr. Laing: Was he praising it?

Mr. Charlton:—than that paid in 1948.

Item agreed to.

Terminable services—

670. Freight assistance on western feed grains—further amount required, \$11,250,000.

Mr. Nowlan: I am glad to see this item included in the estimates again. The minister has heard me make this comment before, and I am not going to take more than thirty seconds of the committee's time to say it again now. I think, and I am sure many others think, the time has arrived for this to be a matter of permanent government policy rather than to be included in the supplementary estimates on a hand to mouth basis. When I raised the matter last year the minister was away from the house, but he probably looked in his *Hansard* and saw that the distinguished gentleman sitting alongside him, his parliamentary assistant, was reported at page 4878 of *Hansard* of last year as

agreeing with that view and saying he would refer it to the minister or the government. I am not sure whether he did, but I think this to be a very opportune time for the minister, in exchange for this way of providing for the matter in a vote, to undertake to see that in future it is dealt with on a permanent basis.

Mr. Gardiner: The matter has been placed before the government every year by me as minister, and has been accepted annually. It has not been thought advisable to put it in any other form than it is now, but as I said the other day when we were discussing the matter the fact that it has gone on year by year and has not been changed is fair inducement for us to think that probably it is pretty well established. However, none of these things are necessarily absolutely permanent. If I might be permitted to do so, I should like to put on the record a table showing the total tonnage for each province, the total amount of money involved, and what that amounts to per ton by way of freight.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed that the minister shall have leave to put the table on *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Gardiner: The table is as follows:

TOTAL TONNAGE ON WHICH FREIGHT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PAID AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY PAID IN CLAIMS FROM OCTOBER 1941 TO MAY 31st, 1952

	Total Tons	Total amount of money	Average rate per ton over this period
		\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Ontario.....	12,288,280	59,366,552 00	4 83
Quebec.....	11,104,913	66,628,569 38	6 00
New Brunswick.....	1,286,769	10,626,980 25	8 27
Nova Scotia.....	1,548,375	14,026,644 80	9 06
Prince Edward Island.....	430,508	3,899,545 45	9 06
British Columbia.....	2,580 906	16,687,616 15	6 47
Newfoundland.....	44,069	895,992 67	20 33
GRAND TOTALS FOR THE PERIOD.....	29,283,820	172,131,900 70	5 88

Mr. Nowlan: May I say that the opinion in the east is that no amount voted by parliament or spent by this department is better spent than this item.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Charlton.]

Special—

673. Land protection and reclamation; clearing and settlement of new lands under such terms and conditions as may be approved by the governor in council—further amount required, \$100,000.