

Supply—Agriculture

Mr. Pickersgill: By leave.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton) moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Flynn in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Livestock division—

634. Grants to agricultural organizations, as detailed in the estimates—further amount required, \$43,000.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): With regard to these grants to agricultural organizations, I do not suppose that the Minister of Finance can possibly be expected to have any knowledge of the important subject of agriculture, certainly only in very general terms, and that being the case, and as I notice that the Minister of Agriculture is not here, I am glad to see that the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture is present. Perhaps he can assist the minister in answering questions which, as I say, cannot be expected to lie within the wide range of knowledge that the Minister of Finance possesses on matters which are of substance as well as matters involving procedure in this house.

Item agreed to.

635. Quality premiums on high grade hog carcasses and administration costs—further amount required, \$800,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary could give a brief explanation of this item?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): If the hon. gentleman does not mind, I will endeavour to reply to his question, and I assure him and the hon. member for Essex East that I am not without some farming experience. I speak as a one-time farm labourer, and I shall endeavour as best I can to answer the questions which come from those two expert agriculturist friends of mine.

Item 635 contemplates the provision of an additional sum of \$800,000. The original estimate here was a substantial one and it has already been increased by supplementary estimate. The marketing of hogs during the present fiscal year has exceeded all previous forecasts indicated in the main and previous supplementary estimates. Based on the figures for the marketing of hogs since January 1, 1960, the forecast of hog marketings to the end of the fiscal year is 148,000 hogs per week, and an additional sum of approximately \$800,000 is required for the payment of the

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

premiums on grade A and B hogs which are eligible. Included in the estimate is the \$9,000 required for the printing of additional premium warrants.

Mr. Pickersgill: Speaking as one who was born on a farm in Ontario and raised on a farm in Manitoba, I should like to ask the minister if these premiums were for the purpose of stimulating the production of hogs, and if the hon. gentleman finds any inconsistency in the fact that these premiums are paid to stimulate production when, at the same time, the government has changed its support policy in midstream to cause the contrary effect on production. How does the minister reconcile those aims in the treasury board?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. gentleman is not giving us a correct surmise when he says that the purpose of these premiums is to increase production. The purpose of the premium payment is to encourage the improvement of quality.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Can the minister tell us what the division of this expenditure is? I see it covers not only quality premiums on high grade carcasses but administration costs. What are the administration costs?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There is \$9,000 for the printing of premium warrants and \$791,000 for the payment of the quality premiums on A and B carcasses.

Mr. Pickersgill: I thank the minister for reminding me that Mr. Gardiner started these quality premiums before the war for the purpose of getting into the United Kingdom market. Can the minister tell us how many hogs or hog products have been shipped into the British market in the past year?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No, Mr. Chairman.

Item agreed to.

Plant products division—

637. Contributions to the governments of the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed by the governor-in-council, of one-half of the amounts paid by the governments of those provinces for transporting haying equipment, fodder and livestock to and within those provinces on and after July 1, 1958—further amount required, \$13,500.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Just a minute, Mr. Chairman. You are going so fast that the Minister of Finance and I are having difficulty in following what we are called upon to vote. This looks like a rather important item although the amount involved is not as large as the preceding vote. Perhaps the minister could give us some information.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Vote No. 637 contemplates the provision of \$13,500 as Canada's contribution to the governments of two of