

present policy seems to be applied in some districts and denied in others. I am not saying it is denied for political reasons; the reason is perhaps that the department cannot afford to buy a sufficient number of pure bred sires. With a proper policy the average farmer would be encouraged to get rid of his scrub sire. With a very little outlay on his part he would be enabled to obtain a pure bred sire.

I do not think the department should be asked to provide absolutely free services to any club under a bull loaning policy. However, the members of these clubs should be given an opportunity of purchasing a sire of an accredited standard at a cost slightly higher than they would pay for a scrub sire. We could have a system of premiums, similar to that already used in the sheep and hog industries. I believe in the hog industry. I understand that under the government's breed sow policy, if a club has fifteen pure bred sows they get the use of a male hog free. Is that not right?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): I commend the department for that to a degree because it is going a long way. If a farmer has the assistance of the government under that policy, he can take his own inferior type of hog to market and bring back, after careful inspection by the department, a pure bred female at no cash outlay of his own; and a similar policy with reference to the male is going a long way in cooperating with the farmer and the producer.

If a similar policy were put into effect in the cattle industry, it would mean millions of dollars annually to the dominion. I do not think an expenditure of this kind can fairly be compared, as one hon. member suggested, with expenditures for health inspection. It is really not an expenditure in the sense of some other expenditures, but rather an investment. The oldest live stock producers in this dominion appreciate the value of good herd sires, and on many occasions, as the minister knows, they have paid half the price of their total herd for a high grade sire. Whether it is for the production of pure bred sheep, swine, cattle or horses, a pure bred herd sire is most essential, and no farmer can continue to produce beef at a profit to-day—I will go that far—if he uses a scrub sire. It is unsound, uneconomical and extravagant. Any money spent by the department to encourage the use of pure bred sires should be regarded not as an expenditure but as an investment, and no greater assistance could be given to this important branch of

[Mr. W. E. Rowe.]

agriculture than the inauguration of a policy that could be generally applied throughout the dominion so that cattle producers in every province who so desired might secure pure bred sires. On the other hand the minister knows full well, from his own knowledge as a farmer and from his knowledge of the department, that there are hundreds of producers of pure bred cattle throughout the dominion who find great difficulty in getting rid of their sires. I do not mean that a special policy should be put into effect for producers of pure bred live stock, but I do submit in all sincerity to the minister and the committee that if you discourage the production of pure bred and better live stock you break the very backbone of the live stock industry in Canada.

I therefore submit, Mr. Chairman, that a policy such as I suggest would cut both ways. It would not only assist the farmer to produce better live stock but encourage the pure bred cattle raisers to continue in the business. I am sure the minister is aware that to-day there are many live stock producers in the dominion, especially producers of pure bred beef cattle, who are having a very difficult time, and I know of nothing more discouraging to a live stock producer of pure bred cattle who has spent years and years in the study and production of a special strain of cattle, a strain that he and his parents before him may have studied and improved for fifty years, than to see five or six excellent young pure bred sires being sent to the market at only so much per pound, while as he drives along the road he sees at the same time scrub sires kept for breeding purposes, lowering the standard of production that he is encouraging to raise throughout the country, and thereby helping to destroy the market by destroying what I might call the national grade of the product we export.

I hope the minister will not feel that I am for a moment critical of the progress he has made in the department in this regard, because I am critical of the lack of progress that has been made under all governments during the last fifteen years. We watched our live stock markets slipping away from us from 1920 to 1930, and during all that period very little improvement was made in the live stock industry in Canada in comparison with the progress made in other countries. Independently of the political effects on his party—and, indeed, it would be all to their advantage—I do submit to the minister that serious consideration should be given at this late date to improve generally the cattle industry of Canada.