

*Supply—Agriculture*

the province of Quebec where dairy cattle have not yet passed the brucellosis test?

**Mr. Hays:** I do not think I can give an accurate answer. There are many, many areas which are now brucellosis free. I will be glad to look into this matter and let the hon. member know the position.

**Mr. Martineau:** Mr. Chairman, while the minister is looking into this question perhaps he will also look at the last listed item under vote No. 76e. I see that this indemnity is payable to one Evert-John Vandenburg and Preferred Finance Corporation Ltd. My question to the minister is, does he not think that this is stretching the law far beyond its original purpose? Surely this finance company is not in the cattle raising business now, and I think there should be some check made on this particular item.

**Mr. Hays:** I would be glad to look at the conditions under which they raised these cattle.

**Mr. Ricard:** Is it the intention of the department, in view of the mounting prices of dairy cattle, to increase indemnity payments in cases of slaughtering?

**Mr. Hays:** Yes, we are looking into this at the moment.

Item agreed to.

91e.—Livestock division—Special grant to royal agricultural winter fair, Toronto, \$98,242.

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Chairman, last fall I asked the minister what consideration was being given to making grants to other agricultural fairs. The royal is, of course, the largest agricultural fair in the country and has been of great assistance in providing a show window for Canadian produce, but I have received a number of inquiries as to the intention of the government with regard to the support of class B and class C fairs. In my opinion these fairs probably do more for agriculture than many of the big fairs. I do not wish to take anything away from fairs such as the western Ontario fair, or the eastern Ontario fair which is held in Ottawa, or any of the western fairs; but to a certain extent these class A fairs have become, as I am sure the minister will agree, industrialized, and a visitor is likely to see more products of industry at these fairs than at industrial fairs themselves. I have attended the fair in Ottawa on several occasions and have seen demonstrations of all types of industrial machinery. The booths are usually rented, not by agriculturalists or those in related fields but by those in home building fields, automobile manufacturing, and so on.

On the other hand, grade B and grade C fairs, particularly the little ones, produce the results. I have referred before to a family in my area which showed potatoes at a class C fair. After many years this family went on to win the world championship for potatoes. They have gone from the little class C fairs to the royal fair and the Chicago fair and have been exhibitors in all the major agricultural shows of the country. But they got their start to show their produce in a little rural community, how to package it and handle it. They obviously learned how to produce it as well.

A large share of the credit for livestock production goes to the contribution made by some of the kids in the 4-H clubs who have exhibited at class C fairs the cattle they have raised. In many cases they have gone on to become some of the largest breeders in the country. I remember my father telling us about the days when he showed cattle at the Ontario Agricultural College and at the royal, and of the thrill it was. He had exhibited at class B and C fairs and after years of hard work had raised championship cattle. Personally I believe the training I received in judging and showmanship at agricultural fairs in my community has stood me in good stead, although I have had little connection with agricultural productivity in recent years.

I believe that if the federal government wants to contribute to the future they should not overlook these class B and C fairs. If the minister visits some of them—for example it is not too far from Ottawa to Vankleek Hill or some other areas—he will find that real agricultural fairs are held there. The people who go to them are the real farmers, and they bring with them the cattle on their farms, not showcase cattle. They bring the cattle which are going to make a necessary contribution to their community.

I would ask the minister to look into this question and to tell us whether he is prepared to take an added interest in these class B and class C fairs. I do not object to this contribution of \$98,242 being made to the royal agricultural winter fair at Toronto; I think this is an international show and a credit to Canada. It is the ultimate of our agricultural shows. But I think that some contribution will have to be made by the federal government if we are to maintain our small fairs. We all know what is required by way of establishment of permanent quarters for these fairs, but I think that most of the fair boards agree that it is more and more difficult to resist the erosion which is taking place as a result of industrial enterprises wanting to subsidize the operation of the fairs. It will not be long before these fairs are classed as industrial rather than agricultural fairs, which