

Supply—National Health

a military establishment, but a training ground. That is all that ever was thought of or suggested. The position is quite clear now.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): A training ground?

Mr. BENNETT: A training field.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): And that is not a military establishment? Is it, then, a plaything, a church organization, or what?

Mr. BENNETT: It is to coordinate their activities with the navy in order that our ports may be defended. Would you not train men here for flying if they were to cooperate with the British navy to defend Canada? Atmospheric pressure, weather conditions, everything that goes with flying out to sea or across the stormy Atlantic must be considered to enable us to cooperate with the British fleet, with the submarines, with the torpedo boat destroyers—all these things are involved. Train in Canada? Of course. Where else would they be able to do what the Minister of National Defence says he is relying on that navy to do, namely to preserve our commerce from destruction. That is the reason. There is no other training place they can go to. This is the only place they can do it and do it effectively to attain the end which the Minister of National Defence says must be attained.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Special—Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act and water storage, \$3,500,000.

Mr. PERLEY: Would the minister give us information as to the number of projects likely to be undertaken in Saskatchewan under this item?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): The item is \$3,500,000 made up as follows:

Headquarters administration.. . . .	\$ 146,950
Cultural experiments and research.	513,190
Land utilization.. . . .	1,339,860
Water development and water storage.. . . .	1,500,000

The number of projects which will be undertaken in Saskatchewan is somewhat smaller than the number undertaken last year, and it will be proportioned to the amount expended last year. It will be impossible to give the total number for this year. The numbers undertaken and completed in 1937-38 are:

Manitoba.. . . .	696
Saskatchewan.. . . .	1,697
Alberta.. . . .	372
Total.. . . .	2,765

Mr. PERLEY: Will the work be let by contracts or units of work? I understand [Mr. Bennett.]

that last year several of the larger projects were carried on by calling for tenders for units of work. Will this be a general contract system?

Mr. GARDINER: The government, of course, pays one-half the cost of the dug-outs, and these works are usually done by the individual farmer on his own farm. The small dams are done in exactly the same way. Community projects are usually carried out by the individuals concerned. That is, if a dam is going to serve three or four or a dozen people, these three or four or a dozen people do the work, and the government assists financially as well as by giving advice. As far as the larger projects are concerned, tenders are called and the jobs are let to contractors, in most instances to the lowest bidder, unless there is some really good reason for not giving it to him; either he has so much work already that he is probably not able to carry it out, or there is some other good reason for his not getting it.

Mr. PERLEY: Last year we had a statement from the minister that where there were units of work, for instance on the Cypress dam, there would be federal government inspectors. I believe the minister stated that this inspector or a representative of his department would have the say as to who should get the work on this project. I am not saying that there was not a certain purpose in view to see that the work was properly distributed to those who needed it. But I should like an understanding now that there will be no discrimination whatsoever by inspectors who will be on the job, and that all those needing any work will get it. I wish to be assured that there will be no discrimination—I would not exactly say for partisanship reasons—but that the inspectors will be fair.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not recollect ever having made the statement—and if I did, it was wrong—to the effect that the inspector determined who was to be employed on the work, say at Cypress lake. The facts are, that with respect to the two dams, one at each end of Cypress lake, there is also work being done there in order to run the Battle creek into Cypress lake and also again to take the water out of Cypress lake to supply irrigation projects along the Battle creek south of Cypress lake. In addition, a ditch is being put in for the purpose of carrying water out of the west end of Cypress lake into the Robstart district, in order to irrigate certain lands there. All these works are being carried out under four contractors who tendered for the work and obtained it on condition that they would take the local people on the job.