

Three thousand dollars is the additional amount that will be paid on the first payments this year. Then, in connection with the horse breeders' clubs in Saskatchewan, provision is being made for the extension of this policy by the addition of twenty-four new clubs which have applied for assistance. These are to take the place of the premium policy which is being discontinued this year in Saskatchewan. This province is coming in under the club scheme which has been taken up by all the western provinces. It will require \$2,500 to provide for this. Then we have had to provide for the payment of premiums on the services of premium stallions in Quebec, payment to be on the basis of last year's system of computation. It has been decided that the system of computation should be the same as that applying in the other provinces where the same policy is in effect. Stallions were purchased last year in Quebec on the understanding that the previous basis of computing premiums would apply on last year's services, which premiums would be payable this year. The total of \$8,000 is made up by \$2,500 for the stallion policy in Quebec, \$2,500 for stallions in Saskatchewan and \$3,000 for bulls in Quebec.

Mr. PELLETIER: Were similar requests received from any other province?

Mr. GARDINER: These changes in policies affect only those two provinces. That is why we have given notice that we are going to discontinue.

Mr. PERLEY: I notice in the monthly bulletin of agricultural statistics there appears a report of the value of live stock production in the different provinces during 1937. There appears to be a considerable reduction in the value of the production in Saskatchewan, apparently this being the only province in which there is a reduction. I assume that the field men of the department are surveying the situation there, and I should like to know if the minister could give us any report upon this condition.

Mr. GARDINER: It is true that a survey by field men is made from time to time with regard to live stock in the different provinces, and a survey in Saskatchewan showed that on December 1, 1936, the total number of cattle in the province was 1,366,200, and the number of milch cows, 612,600; on December 1, 1937, the total number of cattle was 960,400, and the total number of milch cows, 517,300. These figures show a reduction in Saskatchewan between December 1, 1936, and December 1, 1937, of 29.7 per cent in the total number of cattle, and of 15.6 per cent in the total number of milch cows.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

A survey was also made of the number in June of those two years, and it showed that in June, 1936, the total number of cattle in Saskatchewan was 1,539,000, a higher number than in December of the same year because there are always more cattle in June, the cattle being marketed between June and the first of December; and that the total number in June, 1937, was 1,441,200. In June, 1936, the number of milch cows in the province was 591,000 and in June, 1937, 563,000. This shows a reduction of 6.1 per cent in the total number of cattle between June, 1936, and June, 1937, and a reduction of 4.6 per cent in the number of milch cows between the same dates. It will be noticed from these figures that the reduction in the total number of cattle between June, 1937, and December, 1937, was 33.4 per cent, while the reduction in milch cows was 8.2 per cent. The following statement is made as a result of investigations into these figures.

It is significant that the decrease in the number of milch cows has not been nearly so great as the decrease in the total number of cattle, and that the number of milch cows is still in excess of the 480,286 reported in the 1931 census.

That is, there are still more milch cows in Saskatchewan than in the first year of the drought period.

Mr. THOMPSON: What portion of this grant will be expended on the poultry branch, and what activities are carried on in connection with it?

Mr. GARDINER: I understand there is nothing except one position having to do with hatchery work.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): Reverting to the bonus policy for sires, why did the department consider it wise to discontinue the bonus policy? During the last number of years many excellent sires have been marketed at the market price, while a large number of inferior types have been used for breeding purposes, despite the desire there has been for many years to improve the standard of our live stock throughout the country. I would ask the minister to explain why the department saw fit to discontinue the bonus policy in the very years that breeders of live stock needed that form of assistance most.

Mr. GARDINER: We have a bull loaning policy in the different provinces. In Quebec we have been trying out a bull bonusing policy, but we felt that we had come to the point where we should have to make a decision as between the two policies. If we were going to continue the bull bonusing