

*Supply—Agriculture*

try to inculcate into the minds of these 500 personnel that they have other things to do besides draw their breath and their pay. They are supposed to provide inspection services in connection with meats, canned foods and other matters coming under the administration of this particular act. Not only that; a little more encouragement should be given to the little producers instead of leaving everything in the hands of the big three.

You know and I know quite well whom I mean when I talk about the big three. The smaller slaughterers and producers in Canada should be given an opportunity to develop trade under federal inspection, and in this connection I am going to register a complaint on behalf of a small producer. This man handles only some thirty cattle per day, never more than one hundred. His plant contained a lavatory and washroom facilities and there was on duty one inspector, and occasionally two, but he was told that he must install a shower bath for the inspector who was there to watch entrails and the odd piece go through to see whether they were healthy.

I can quite understand that in a large abattoir where they are slaughtering a thousand cattle a day it might be desirable that the inspector should have a shower bath, but where a small producer is handling no more than thirty a day I do not think he should be put to the expense of providing the same facilities. These veterinary inspectors work probably two or three hours a day and yet they must have an individual shower bath.

I examined these premises and found that they had a washroom which was tiled to the height of four feet six inches; there were toilet facilities, and splendid office space was available. But they did not happen to have a shower bath and therefore federal inspection of their products was to be withheld. In April they were given six months in which to provide these facilities, and those six months are about up. This plant employs only thirty or forty men and the manager offered his own bathroom facilities in the office building for the use of the inspector, but, no, they want their own.

I ask the minister and the department to see that the inspection services give reasonable encouragement to smaller producers and exporters who want federal inspection. They should be permitted to get on with their job. They should not be hampered with too many strings and requirements based on an organization made up of 500 personnel, when perhaps only one or two out of that 500 find their vocation for a few hours a day within the confines of a particular federally inspected institution.

These smaller organizations across Canada should not be discouraged. They should not

[Mr. Harris (Danforth).]

be driven more and more into the hands of the big three. These younger organizations are trying to get established in this particular line of business. To my mind the deputies of the minister are inclined to be a little arbitrary. They are inclined to follow the letter of the law. I am not going to make a charge, but I say that that law has been developed by individuals who have found their job in Ottawa to be that of lobbying all departments of government on behalf of the big three. They have managed to have the regulations worded in such language as to sometimes make it most difficult for the little fellow to comply with them. These regulations emanate from discussions which these lobbyists have with deputies who in turn advise the minister. That is not a charge; that is just a suggestion that we should be a little more careful and a little more considerate of what is known by some people as the little fellow who is trying to get along, the underdog.

Tonight we are voting \$3 million for these 500 personnel, when a few years ago they asked for only \$1 million. Let them be a little more broadminded and not expect all the facilities that are to be found in the abattoirs of the big three. Those things should not be expected of the small producer who is doing only perhaps one-tenth of the business.

If these 500 personnel are receiving more consideration from the big three than they are from the little fellows the solution might be to alternate their services. Let them spend a few months with the big fellows and a month or two with the little fellows. But they should not demand of these small firms who are struggling to get along that they provide the same facilities furnished by the big three who are doing twenty, thirty, forty or fifty times as much business.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** While it is desirable that the people of Ontario take a bath, I do not think it should be made compulsory.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I was just wondering whether I should say anything in reply, but I do not think I should let the last two or three statements go by without anything being said. There are in Canada hundreds of slaughter houses—

**Mr. Harris (Danforth):** Not under federal inspection.

**Mr. Gardiner:** —that are operating without any restrictions and over which we have no authority. There may be thousands; I have not counted them, but I know they run into hundreds. The suggestion is made that we interfere with the small plants.

**Mr. Harris (Danforth):** Mr. Chairman—