

farmed properly while he was doing it, he might be paid. It would depend on the circumstances surrounding the case.

Mr. FAIR: I am very glad to hear that because I know of a case where a farmer has been diligently farming, and he summer-fallowed his land last year for the purpose of getting better production, and was denied the bonus. I am glad to hear from the minister that a person who is farming properly and who summer-fallowed in 1940 will get the bonus.

Mr. GARDINER: All these cases are under consideration, and they are settled on what the board considers to be the merits of the case. I should not like to say that the bonus will be paid in any particular case.

Item agreed to.

Special.

426. To provide for assistance to encourage the improvement of cheese and cheese factories—further amount required, \$300,000.

Mr. TUSTIN: Last year the government set aside a certain sum of money to bonus the improvement of cheese, and many cheese factories included the bonus to the producers with their milk cheques on receiving the grade of the cheese. They now find themselves out a considerable amount of money, because they paid the last bonus with the last milk cheque. Is an item included in this amount to pay the factories for the last bonus on cheese, which was made last fall?

Mr. GARDINER: This amount is to make up the shortage in the estimate of last year for the payment of bonuses under the act. I am not just sure what the type of case is. If the cheese factory is entitled to a further payment, and it was only because there was a shortage of money at the time the application was made, then this sum of money being provided will make it possible to make that payment. The explanation in connection with the requiring of more money is largely to be found in the fact that there was a considerable increase, namely, fifteen per cent, in the production of cheese last year over the previous year, which increase was not estimated at the time. In addition, there has been quite an increase in the number of boxes of cheese which have gone into 94 and 93 as compared with the year before, 148,098 more boxes going into 94, and 192,873 more boxes scoring 93.

Mr. TUSTIN: That answers what I wished to know. The factories have paid the farmers the bonus on the quality cheese. I quite appreciate the fact that that quality has improved considerably.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Governor general's warrants, 1939-40.

456. To provide for expenses of administration of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act (governor general's warrants of November 22, 1939, and January 10, 1940), \$150,000.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): This relates to 1939-40. Why does that come now, rather than at the last session?

Mr. GARDINER: As the hon. gentleman will remember, this act went through the house very late in the session, and there was no estimate. The act was passed after the estimates for agricultural purposes had practically all gone through the house. It was considered at that time that there was provision for the administration costs. We found out later that, legally, provision had not been made, and we had to find sums from other sources to pay costs of administration. To the extent that they could not be obtained from other sources, we had to pass warrants for them. The two warrants amounted to \$150,000.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): What would that make the total expenses?

Mr. GARDINER: It would be \$266,595.62.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): How does that compare with the crop year 1940-41?

Mr. GARDINER: The amount was \$348,675.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): The difference is largely because of the extra supervision connected with this 3,000 bushel limitation?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. McNEVIN: In connection with these administration costs, are the moneys paid entirely to individuals, or are the municipalities reimbursed for any expense in connection with the matter?

Mr. GARDINER: Under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act the municipalities do not do any of the administration work. The administration work is carried on by the staffs and inspectors who are put out by the government.

Mr. FAIR: When the regulations governing the Prairie Farm Assistance Act are being reconsidered, I hope the minister will again consider the 3,000 bushel limit, because in many instances it has worked great hardship on farmers. For example, a man who is farming with one, two, or three sons working with him, can have the benefit of the acreage bonus only if his yield is under 3,000 bushels.

Mr. GARDINER: I should point out that this limitation is in the act; it is not in the regulations.

Mr. FAIR: The act might be amended to fix that up.

Item agreed to.