

spent the amount last year if we had been able to get the equipment. But we were not able to get it.

Mr. WEBB: I understand this large item of \$1,750,000 for premiums on high quality cheese. But the item which was not quite clear to me was the one for \$250,000. Have any subsidies been paid for construction and maintenance of cheese factories in the county of Leeds?

Mr. GARDINER: I am not sure that we have the information for counties, but we have it for provinces. Under the item of amalgamation, we have amalgamated 47 in Quebec, three in Ontario. In the matter of insulation, there have been 150 in Quebec, 19 in Ontario, two in Manitoba and one in Alberta. For insulation and refrigeration there have been 242 in Quebec, 262 in Ontario, seven in Alberta and one in British Columbia. For pressing equipment there have been eight in New Brunswick, four in Prince Edward Island, two in Quebec, 141 in Ontario, and one in British Columbia.

The totals for all are: New Brunswick, eight; Prince Edward Island, 4; Quebec, 441; Ontario, 425; Manitoba, two; Alberta, eight, and British Columbia, two.

While I have not the information by counties, I am reasonably sure that there has been some reequipment in the county of Leeds, and that they have received payments under the provision for reequipment. Perhaps they have not received anything in respect of the rebuilding of factories.

Mr. HACKETT: In the last month or six weeks the minister has referred frequently to a procedure in Quebec whereby factories have become convertible into cheese factories or butter factories, as opportunity for sale of one or other of these commodities seems to become more attractive. Has any part of this \$250,000 been devoted to effecting this convertibility in respect of the butter and cheese factories in Quebec?

Mr. GARDINER: I would doubt very much if any considerable proportion of it has been used for that purpose. There may have been instances where it has been proposed to add a cheese factory to a building already producing butter, in which event they would probably come under the regulations as applied to equipment. But that is a condition which, as I understand it, has existed in Quebec for many years. They have had duplex plants, I do not know what their origin was, or who originally advocated their operation. But the fact is that they have those duplex plants and, strange to say,

[Mr. Gardiner.]

there are very few of them anywhere but Quebec. One may wonder why that should be so, but the fact remains. Someone must have promoted the idea at one time, and succeeded in having a considerable number of them established in that province.

Mr. HACKETT: Has the minister any detailed information on this particular phase of the enterprise? He made several references to it. The fact that I am not thoroughly familiar with the situation is of no great significance, but I must point out that I have not been able to localize many of those factories, nor have I been able to find many instances where a change from cheese making to butter making has taken place.

Mr. GARDINER: I had the figures here the other night when we were discussing it, but I do not know whether I can locate them at the moment. Would the hon. member mind if I got the information for him and give it to him to-morrow in typewritten form?

Mr. HACKETT: That is quite satisfactory.

Mr. TUSTIN: Cheese production this year is down considerably as compared with the same period last year. If my figures are correct it is down 35.8 per cent for the four months. The estimates provide for \$1,750,000 for quality cheese, which is the same as was voted last year. In many instances the subsidy is not forthcoming to the cheese factories in the late fall and the patrons do not receive it for some time. Some cheese factories borrow the money and pay the subsidies and then wait until it is passed by the government for the ensuing year. Beginning June 1, cheese is being requisitioned for the British market. After that date all cheese manufactured in Ontario and Quebec will have to be sent to the dairy products board for shipment to the United Kingdom.

Does the minister think that, with the prices now prevailing for milk going into cheese, he will be able to supply the 125,000,000 pounds which we have contracted to ship to the United Kingdom this year? If he does not, then I suggest that some arrangement be made whereby, if all this \$250,000 for the improvement of cheese factories and equipment is not required this year, an extra premium for quality be paid to producers. I believe the minister is on the right track in paying a subsidy for quality, because I think the records will show that since this subsidy was put on there has been a great improvement in the quality of cheese manufactured in this country. If the minister does not think he is going to get this 125,000,000 pounds of