

if any red clover seed exported, so that those participation certificates will be valueless. It is equally true that there was very little alfalfa exported, so that those participation certificates will not have much value. I suppose it is a little too early in the season to ask the minister what those participation certificates will bring to those who received them. I understand that a certain amount of alsike seed has been exported or will be exported before the season is over, and there will be a return to the farmers in that event. Perhaps the minister could give us an estimate as to what these participation certificates will be worth.

I think it is unfair to lay the blame upon the primary dealer for the lower prices that were paid. He had to buy in accordance with the export prices, and if any profit was made it did not accrue to him. It accrued to the larger houses who reclaimed the seed and then sold it to the retail trade. I think it is only fair to the primary dealers to say this. I believe the minister will agree with me that if any blame was to be attached to anyone, it was owing to the fact that the special products board made more or less of a mistake in not placing a high enough price upon export seed.

Mr. GARDINER: All I can say is that there is an established price as has been suggested, and the dealer can pay any price at all up to that price. He gives an undertaking to give a participation certificate in any case where the farmer desires to have it, although he is not compelled to do so.

Mr. SENN: They did so in my district.

Mr. GARDINER: In some cases he pays a price somewhat below the top price that might be paid. My understanding is that he gets one-eighth of a cent a pound by way of commission for issuing the certificate. I would point out that grass seed is a thing that farmers buy as well as sell and I hope that they are not being billed any more for it than I have been billed if they want to plant it to make a pasture.

Mr. SENN: There is a price ceiling.

Mr. GARDINER: It is a pretty high ceiling.

Mr. WRIGHT: How does that price ceiling compare with the price received last year for alfalfa seed by the cooperatives in western Canada?

Mr. GARDINER: I was billed thirty-seven cents a pound for alfalfa.

Mr. WRIGHT: The ceiling this year was thirty-seven cents.

[Mr. Senn.]

Mr. SENN: The retail price as set by the prices board in lots of thirty-one pounds was thirty-seven cents for alfalfa, twenty-nine cents for alsike, thirty-four cents for red clover, early double cut; single cut, thirty-five cents.

Mr. GARDINER: That is commercial grass.

Mr. SENN: Of course, if the minister were using fancy grades it would make a difference, but the average farmer is not using that kind of grade. As long as it is clear of weed seeds, that is all he desires, provided that the seed is vital. The only point I wish to make is this. I think somebody did make a pretty handsome profit on the seed that went into domestic use in the country because the price ceiling is high enough to allow that. I know that in some cases the seed was not sold as high as the ceiling. In my own village it was not, but they made a handsome profit just the same. I should not like to see the primary dealers, who are performing a useful service to the farmer in collecting, cleaning and marketing the seed, blamed for paying a price that was too low.

Item agreed to.

Subsidies to producers of food products, \$47,600,000.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Can the minister give any more definite information than was given yesterday in reply to a question by the hon. member for York-Sunbury as to the subsidy paid on potatoes?

Mr. GARDINER: No. I think it was agreed yesterday that that was a question which would have to be asked when the prices board estimates are before the committee.

Mr. WRIGHT: Is there a detailed break-down of these subsidies? I am not asking the minister to read it, but perhaps it might be placed on the record.

Mr. GARDINER: The break-down is as follows:

Payment of subsidies by agricultural food board on products delivered to distributors and manufacturers during fiscal year ending March 31, 1944.	
(Refund made in April for March deliveries)	
	To April 30, 1944
Fluid milk at 25 cents.....	\$ 2,632,908 82
at 55 cents.....	6,289,085 60
Total fluid milk.....	\$ 8,921,994 42
Butterfat at 8 cents.....	15,954,297 21
at 10 cents.....	3,050,353 30
Total butterfat.....	\$19,004,650 51