

Supply—Agriculture

bushels of wheat on hand, whereas last year at this time we had 682 million bushels. Last year at this time we had sold 70.8 million bushels and so far we have only exported 53 million bushels. I see, too, on the next page, page 3 of this review, that a year ago at this time we had 607.8 million bushels in carry-over and that now we have 395.7 million bushels. There may be some comfort in this, but after all the grain is in I suspect we shall have more stocks than we had last year and certainly sales are not keeping up with last year's sales.

Now I wish to turn to another subject which comes under the Department of Agriculture, the subject of ARDA. We have been told that the main agreement has been signed with all the provinces. We have been told the federal government is ready to pay \$50 million into it. Perhaps it is progressing to some extent. But what disturbs me is that some of the Conservative backbenchers from western Canada have been going about blaming the provincial governments for dragging their feet in this respect. This is simply not true. I have a letter here from one of the former Conservative members from western Canada. This is a letter to a newspaper, by the way, and it reads:

The federal government has given its endorsement to the plan. The P.F.A.A. is ready to go to work. It is my hope that our provincial minister of agriculture will see fit to go into action immediately and make the plan a success.

I would point out that it is only a few days ago since this agreement was signed and I happen to know that the province of Alberta submitted some plans for approval under ARDA months ago. As a matter of fact, in September, after some projects had passed the executive council in Alberta, they were submitted, but so far not one has been approved by the department. So who are dragging their feet?

One other point I want to bring out is to express my hope that the minister will expedite that thought in the speech from the throne with respect to building more storage in eastern Canada, and to put some grain in a position where it will be available to some very large and important customers for wheat feed grains produced in the west. I cannot see any valid objection to having the wheat board place some of their stocks in these positions so that they will be available to the feeders in eastern Canada in the off navigation season, as well as when the seaway is open, and to do so at the same price.

One other thing I want to mention briefly is a matter brought up by the hon. member for Bow River with regard to a veterinary college in western Canada. We believe there

[Mr. Olson.]

is a growing need for this. As a matter of fact, there have been some conferences over the last 18 months which have indicated that there would be greater movement of livestock through auction rings, and so on. Using trucking methods whereby cattle are going in to the auction rings and then back out to the farms more than they did before, the spread of disease is going to be a very serious problem. In addition to this, if we do not have a greater measure of control over some livestock diseases, we may see the day when we get into difficulty with the export of cattle to the United States. So that I would encourage the federal government to make a contribution toward the establishment of a veterinary college in western Canada, and perhaps even to call on the four western provinces to share in the cost of both building and operating this college. I understand that Alberta is studying this proposal at the present time. Therefore, I hope the government will come to an agreement with the four provinces and, with their co-operation will establish such a college. We know now that the veterinary college at Guelph, Ontario, is overcrowded, and a lot of our applicants are being turned away simply because there is not enough room for them.

The Alberta veterinary medical association have made some recommendations in this regard, and if I have time I should like to read them to the committee. They respectfully suggest that the veterinary college be a faculty completely within the jurisdiction of an existing university. This was a specific recommendation in the report of the western Canada veterinary study committee. Second, they recommend that sites other than the city of Saskatoon be seriously considered for the establishment of this faculty. The University of Alberta in Edmonton has an imposing list of attributes which would make it an ideal site for this college. Third, they suggest that we should recommend that a definite grant from the government of Canada be made to the University of Alberta to defray part of the cost of establishing this faculty of veterinary medicine. Mr. Chairman, with these suggestions I wish to thank the committee for its indulgence.

Mr. Honey: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the participation of the Minister of Agriculture in this debate. I have also listened to the contributions to this debate made by members of the government party. However, I must register my surprise and disappointment that today neither the Minister of Agriculture nor any of his supporters has taken time to say anything about the very serious plight in which the agriculture industry of eastern Canada finds itself. I thought that