

Supply—Agriculture

The Deputy Chairman: Order. On two previous occasions I have ruled out any discussion which is not relevant to the item.

Mr. Fulton: I appreciate the reason for your ruling, and I shall try not to transgress. I would direct your attention to the fact that I am referring to something said earlier in the discussion. I merely wanted to make the point. There is a good deal more I could say, but if Your Honour feels—

The Deputy Chairman: I know the hon. member is referring to something said earlier in this debate. He is probably referring to the report made to the minister—

Mr. Fulton: No; to what was said by the hon. member for Moose Jaw on Friday in discussing this item.

The Deputy Chairman: On Friday this item was permitted to stand, by unanimous consent.

Mr. Fulton: But before that a number of remarks were made. However, I think I have made the point I wished to make and if you think a discussion of the embargo would contravene your ruling I shall be content, provided it is on the record—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Fulton:—that I take issue entirely with the remarks of the hon. member for Moose Jaw, which under the circumstances I considered quite uncalled for. I think this thing can be left to the good sense and discretion of the provinces, which I know want to remove the embargo just as soon as possible.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): I have been waiting patiently to say a word on this question. When the legislation was first introduced I pointed out that under the contagious diseases act every farmer whose cattle were condemned because of tuberculosis knew exactly what he would receive, and knew exactly what the formula would be. Now nobody knows. One or two have referred to the fact that the cards are being placed on the table face down, and no doubt that has added to the confusion here tonight. Now everyone is wondering what kind of deal his neighbour got, and consequently no one is going to be satisfied. But enough of that. I think perhaps the minister has read what I said on Friday with respect to payment for animals destroyed in Oxford county. Would he be prepared to tell us now how many have been paid for, and what payment is going to be made for those that died before diagnosis was made?

Mr. Gardiner: The hon. member for Oxford did take up that matter with me a day or two ago, and I think I told him a cheque had

[Mr. Fulton.]

already gone forward to the farmer whose cattle were slaughtered, for the amount available to him under the contagious diseases act. I must apologize to somebody, I don't know whom, but we did put through an item we expected would appear in these estimates to cover the extra amount he might obtain. For some unknown reason it did not turn up in the estimates; it was dropped somewhere along the road, not intentionally but inadvertently. He is being notified that an item will be put in the regular supplementaries later, but in the meantime he is being paid the full amount he could draw under the contagious diseases act which, as in all these cases I have referred to, will be the greater part of the payment.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): Then I understand that 25 head have been or will be paid for within a day or two, and a further item will be put in the next supplementary estimates to pay for the others?

Mr. Gardiner: That is right.

Mr. Nowlan: Before the item carries I have a question to ask on behalf of the hon. member for Cumberland, who could not be here this evening. In the details there is reference to poultry and poultry products. I take it those amounts are being paid in regard to premises infected by the hoof-and-mouth disease, and that they have no reference to premises which have been infected with Newcastle disease in other parts of Canada?

Mr. Gardiner: Yes; amounts for poultry destroyed because of Newcastle disease are provided in here as well.

Mr. Nowlan: They are in here also?

Mr. Gardiner: Yes.

Mr. Higgins: Does that mean Newcastle disease cannot be discussed now? The hon. member for Cumberland also left me a little chore to do for him, and I want to know if it is in order now.

The Deputy Chairman: It does not appear to me that the compensation referred to here has anything to do with animals destroyed because of Newcastle disease.

Mr. Murray (Oxford): Mention has been made tonight of Oxford county, and I am sure all hon. members want to give credit where credit is due relative to the loss sustained by the farmer in my county. I would like to say that I journeyed with the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture to this farm. There we saw the animals, and the parliamentary assistant made a detailed investigation. I feel that through his efforts the cause of the farmer has been brought to the attention of the government,