

Supply—Finance

board are included in the annual report. I should like to ask the minister what are the salaries of the members of the board.

The Chairman: Order. This item has to do with the Canadian association of consumers. I do not see how questions with regard to the Canadian farm loan board can be dealt with here.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, last evening when perhaps you were not in the chair a question was asked about the Canadian farm loan board by my hon. friend. While there is no item covering it, I undertook to answer his question on the final item of my estimates. I take it he is assuming this is the final item although it is not. However, that is quite all right, and I will try to answer his questions now if I can.

The Chairman: Is it agreeable to the committee that the minister answer on this item?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Harris: The salaries at the moment are: the chairman, \$10,000; the associate commissioner, 6,000; and the part-time members a minimum of \$500.

Mr. Charlton: I presume that is \$500 salary and travelling expenses?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Charlton: It is more or less on a piece-meal basis, then?

Mr. Harris: Yes, for meetings and any other work that may have to be done.

Mr. Charlton: So much for each meeting, and probably so much for each item dealt with by a member?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Charlton: Do the members of the board act as appraisers in the particular district in which they are?

Mr. Harris: No, they do not.

Mr. Charlton: They do not do any appraising at all?

Mr. Harris: I presume if a member is aware of an application in his immediate neighbourhood he may possibly form an opinion about it, but there are appraisers, other than the members of the board, who do the appraising.

Mr. Charlton: The same criticism I made of the Farm Improvement Loans Act last night would hold true of this board. The interest rates for these Canadian farm loans are 5 per cent in the case of a first mortgage and 5.5 per cent in the case of a second mortgage. Surely the interest rates on these farm loans should be lowered by at least 1 per

cent. There is a considerable amount of money being lent, and it is doing a very good job.

The other question I wanted to ask the minister concerns fishermen who are now entitled to loans under this act. I see that it is only the fishermen on the east coast, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, who have taken advantage of this opportunity. Are the lake fishermen, the inland fishermen, eligible for loans under this act?

Mr. Harris: We have a new fishermen's loan act which, as my hon. friend knows, was recently passed by the house. When it is proclaimed, it will repeal the existing lending system and under the new act the inland fishermen are entitled to make application.

Mr. Charlton: The previous loans to fishermen were made under the provisions of this act, so it was called the fishermen's loan act?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Charlton: And that was actually administered under the Canadian farm loan board, although now there is a new act for fishermen's loans and the lake fishermen will be entitled to that?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Castleden: I have one question on this item. It has been drawn to my attention by a number of farm producers in my area that in the past year applications for loans have been refused. The need for loans has been greater in these areas during the past year because of rusted crops and lowered farm income as well as the fact that farmers were unable to deliver their crops. I should like to suggest to the minister that those responsible for granting loans in our area might be just a little more lenient where special circumstances like rust and lowered income prevail. The farmers seem to feel that this legislation is something like an umbrella that is given to them in fair weather, but when the rain comes and they want to make use of it they are not allowed to do so. I would pass this on as a suggestion to the minister, that those people responsible for granting loans might be a little more lenient when the need is urgent.

Item agreed to.

Loans, investments and advances—
Finance—

539. Loan to the Ottawa Civil Service Recreational Association, on such terms and conditions as the governor in council may approve, to assist in the construction of the W. Clifford Clark memorial recreation centre, \$500,000.

Mr. Macdonnell: I asked a question last night with regard to the industrial develop-