

Supply—Agriculture

is not a fact that the farmers out there whose stock was slaughtered have already been told what they are going to get, or what it has been recommended they are to get, and the minister has indicated that the recommendations are going through. Is that not a fact?

Mr. Gardiner: The four inspectors we appointed interviewed the individuals; and I think without exception the individuals discussed the matter with the board in its office. I believe there is a general understanding as to the position, but the final figure was not referred back to the individuals until it was first referred to Ottawa. Now that has been done, we have agreed with their findings and the whole list is being sent back to Regina for final consideration. I would not like to make an announcement here with regard to individual cases which may be changed slightly, though they are not likely to be greatly changed.

Mr. Harkness: I do not think anyone is asking the minister to say what Mr. Jones or Mr. Brown or anyone else got for his animals. My whole point was that I see no reason for making such a mystery about the figures, without mentioning names. In answer to my question as to whether the farmers had been told what they were going to get, in effect the minister said they had been told they would be likely to get a certain amount, at any rate, and that is more or less what they are getting. So I see no reason to keep those amounts secret, as long as we do not say Bill Jones or somebody else got \$300. I think quite a bit of time would be saved if the figures asked for were given.

It would appear from the figures the minister has given us on 1,061 cattle that the average price paid was in the neighbourhood of \$300 or a little less. That, of course, would include grade cattle, purebred cattle, and I suppose a certain number of calves. My information is that generally speaking the farmers out there were not too dissatisfied with the prices they were told they were likely to get for those animals which were being slaughtered. However, I was also told they were very dissatisfied with the prices they had received for the hogs or pigs which were slaughtered. I would like the minister to tell us the highest price paid for any pigs that were slaughtered, and the average price paid for those swine. From what I have been able to learn it would appear that the people who had pigs destroyed got a very poor deal.

[Mr. Harkness.]

If the minister would just make a note of that and be prepared to answer the question later, I have one other matter. The minister said some \$248,000 was paid under the contagious diseases act and \$63,000 under the foot-and-mouth legislation we passed about a month ago.

Mr. Gardiner: It was \$242,510 under the contagious diseases act and \$68,939.02 under the other legislation.

Mr. Harkness: That gave rise to a question in my mind, because I believe under the contagious diseases act the maximum that can be paid for a purebred animal is \$100 and for a grade animal \$40, plus the value of the carcass. Apparently most of this money has been paid under the contagious diseases act.

Mr. Gardiner: If I might correct my hon. friend—

Mr. Harkness: Let me finish, then you can answer all these questions. I was just wondering on what basis this had been arrived at, or how it was worked out.

Mr. Gardiner: The settlements under the contagious diseases act are made under the amendment of two years ago, which makes it possible to settle on the basis of the commercial value of the animal. The figure of \$242,510.12 is the commercial value of the animals; and I may say all the individuals signed the statement in that case.

Mr. Harkness: What is that?

Mr. Gardiner: All the individuals signed the statement that was compiled to indicate the value of those animals, I presume indicating their agreement that this was the commercial value. The \$68,939.02 is in addition to the commercial value.

Mr. Harkness: That is really to pay for purebred cattle?

Mr. Gardiner: No, that is to pay the amount which was allowed under the legislation we passed at the beginning of the session, to give additional value. I think I mentioned the case of a cow with calf, and things of that kind which should be considered.

Mr. Harkness: Then I wonder if I could get the information with regard to the compensation paid for swine.

Mr. Gardiner: I have sent out to try to get it. I have been over it myself, but I do not want to try to recite any of these matters from memory. I am not sure that I can get it. It was in council this afternoon, and it is pretty hard to get into the office of council at this time of night. So while I am trying to get it I am not sure I can do so.