

United States, with tremendous loss to this country. These men would prove of inestimable value to us, and this work would give them an opportunity to serve Canada and improve Canadian standards of living.

Item agreed to.

13. Experimental farms service—Central experimental farm, \$588,560.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I should like to pay a tribute to the work done by the central experimental farm at Ottawa and to tell the minister that I thoroughly support this appropriation.

Mr. GRAYDON: I want to make the shortest speech delivered this afternoon, and to say that I endorse what the last speaker has said with respect to the central experimental farm.

Mr. HANSELL: Is the minister satisfied that there is no duplication of work by the federal experimental farms and the provincial farms? I do not see how it could be avoided, but I suppose the minister will say that there is no duplication. Money would be saved by avoiding such duplication in the future.

Mr. GARDINER: This matter has been gone into on a number of occasions. The last time it was reviewed was when the Sirois report was presented. Speaking from memory, I think it will be found that both provincial and federal authorities agreed that there was very little overlapping in agricultural work as between the provinces and the dominion. The provinces are entrusted with the task of looking after education, whether it is with regard to agriculture or anything else. I believe each province has an agricultural college, or at least each section of Canada has an agricultural college, and each institution has a certain amount of land that can be used for experimental purposes. That is true of Guelph, and the Ontario government also have a fruit experimental station in another part of the province. It is true also of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the other provinces, with the possible exception of Prince Edward Island. The work carried on at these colleges does not overlap the work of the federal experimental farms.

Last year we closed the farm at Rosthern because it was considered to be too close to the agricultural college at Saskatoon, which caused a certain amount of overlapping. In addition there are committees upon which representatives of the provincial governments and the federal government meet to consider any work that may be required in a province with which the federal govern-

[Mr. Graham.]

ment is associated. Any work that is done provincially is linked up with our work in order to cut down as much as possible the duplication which might occur in carrying on the activities of a country where there is a federated form of government.

Mr. HANSELL: Experimental work is carried on by the colleges.

Mr. GARDINER: Only along certain specialized lines. The Ontario government has an experimental station in the middle of the fruit belt, but it does not duplicate any of our work.

Mr. HANSELL: Is the experimental farm at Lacombe, Alberta, still operated?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Experimental farms service.

14. Branch farms and stations and illustration stations, \$1,292,769.

Mr. PERLEY: Could the minister give us some information as to the work being carried on by these branch farms and illustration stations, particularly those located in the west? There is considerable need for the production of seeds, such as flax, milkweed and sunflower. Also considerable work has been done by the federal government in connection with early maturing and rust-resistant grains. I should like to know to what extent the stations in the west are being used.

Mr. GARDINER: Since the war began the work in connection with the production of seeds has been greatly increased. This has been necessary in order to supplement our supplies of seeds which were formerly produced in European countries. I should like to refer to a matter mentioned by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle a moment ago. I have in my hand printed copies of the information which was given to the agriculture and colonization committee at I think eleven different sittings and which deals with the very matters we are dealing with to-day. There are more than eleven; there are eleven already in print, and information with regard to most of the questions that are being asked here is contained in those reports, just as it will be in *Hansard* if we carry on this discussion. I should like to remind members that early in the session we had under discussion the question whether it would not be a good thing to have much of the discussion that takes place in the house, very often in the last two or three days of the session, carried on in a committee of the house where the officials could be present and give