

Supply—Agriculture

station at Summerland, particularly in connection with the analysis of food products, fungicides and soils, and in the matter of soil conservation and fertilizers. We appreciate the advisory service they have rendered generally to the farming people of my constituency.

While that experimental station renders us a great service it cannot, owing to its location, render us service in every respect, so far as the average farmer is concerned. In the west we have the Summerland experimental station and in the east the Windermere experimental station, both of which operate under conditions somewhat different from ours. Their rainfall is lighter. They operate under drier conditions. Many of my farming constituents have asked me to suggest to the minister that in the Kootenays there is a place for the establishment of an illustration station.

In the Kootenays both climatic and soil conditions vary greatly in short distances. For instance, I happen to own two properties within six miles of each other in the Arrow lakes district. Over a period of forty years the winter temperature of one property has averaged 10 degrees higher than that of the other. This indicates that tests and experiments conducted at Summerland or Windermere cannot always be satisfactorily used in our district. Therefore I would suggest that the minister give consideration to the establishment of an illustration station in the Kootenays. In the first instance it would deal with the proper application of fertilizers to our very different and changing soils. I am of the opinion that a considerable amount of money is wasted by farmers in the wrong application of fertilizers, particularly in certain districts of the constituency I have the honour to represent.

The same would apply to potato varieties, vegetable varieties, seed-growing, and the development of tree fruits. In that connection I would mention, to illustrate my point, that thirty miles south of where I live they can grow satisfactorily the Delicious apple, whereas within thirty miles of that growing area the same apple cannot be produced satisfactorily on a commercial basis.

I therefore urge that the minister give consideration to the establishment of an illustration station in the Kootenay area, which is so different from the other districts covered by the experimental stations in British Columbia. Our conditions are different from those on the coastal area and from those in the dry belt area. Actually we live in a district which comes in between the damp coastal area and the dry belt as exemplified in the Okanagan and in the Invermere districts.

Mr. Jones: I should like to join in the remarks of my colleague from Kootenay West in paying a compliment to the farm at Summerland. In my opinion the work it has done is excellent. They have a splendid staff, and are really doing good work.

May I draw the attention of the minister to a condition arising from the floods adjacent to the farms, where some of the land was lost through erosion. I understand that in the last year some work was done to prevent further flooding, and I would ask the minister how much money, if any, is set aside in this item for the Summerland area, to remove the flood danger which was apparent last year. Is there a special fund, or some other means of raising funds to assist in this work?

Mr. Cruickshank: Mr. Chairman, may I bring to the attention of the minister the fact that in my riding we have the finest experimental farm in Canada, administered by Mr. Harold Hicks, the finest possible superintendent. We appreciate the assistance given to these junior ridings, which are following in our footsteps and copying the Agassiz experimental farm.

Mr. Gardiner: Perhaps I might answer the question of the hon. member for Yale. My understanding is that he was talking about a small diking project on which the government spent a thousand dollars, and the municipality, or those concerned—I am not certain which put up the money—put up a proportionate amount. Each put up an amount proportionate to the amount the government was offering.

Item agreed to.

Production service—

17. Health of animals—Administration of Animal Contagious Diseases Act and Meat and Canned Foods Act, \$2,868,297.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): I should like to say a few words with respect to this item which has to do with the administration of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act. During the last two decades we have noticed this item creeping up from a personnel of 100 to 400, and to the present 500. Inasmuch as we are an exporting country, that is all to the good. Over the past few years I have seen those of Australia, those of New Zealand and those of Canada and Canada still has some distance to go before she can reach the uniformity of quality and appearance of the exports of New Zealand. I think perhaps we are on a par with Australia, but there is room for improvement in other directions.

With the amount of exporting that we do and with an inspection staff of close to 500 we ought to improve our position very much and very soon. I think the minister should