

statement of Mr. Stewart which was repeated here the other night that all experiments in tree planting in the North-west Territories had utterly failed and that Mr. Stewart's mission was to go around preaching the proper doctrine of tree planting, and to give the people instruction as to how trees could be raised and proper experiments could be made. That statement was made here, and I would ask the hon. minister how he reconciles it with his own splendid experiments in the North-west?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not attempt to reconcile it. I do not know whether it was made or not.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman stated in the early part of the evening that it was found to be difficult for the agricultural farms to produce trees to any considerable extent for planting in the country more than merely for experimental purposes. I understood the hon. gentleman to make that statement.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I said we had not done so before.

Mr. CLANCY. Am I to understand that the hon. gentleman intends to enlarge the building of tree planting now?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, at these farms for this purpose.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the hon. gentleman intend to grow trees at the experimental farms to provide wind-breaks in the country?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I propose to raise trees and to hand them over to Mr. Stewart for whatever uses his department requires them and Mr. Stewart's department, the Department of the Interior, has to pay for that work.

Mr. CLANCY. But, it is paid out of the public purse.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. CLANCY. What I ask the hon. gentleman is if he is going to devote, to a larger extent than in the past, the efforts of the farms to the growth of trees for the purpose of making wind-breaks upon the application of such parties as may apply to the Department of the Interior. Is his department to be a pack horse for the Department of the Interior? The hon. gentleman stated in most explicit terms, that, while in the past, only a comparatively few trees were grown for educational purposes, now he intends to enlarge the service and hand the trees over to Mr. Stewart to make wind-breaks in the country. I do not think I am misstating the hon. gentleman in the statement that I make. If it is the intention for the Agriculture Department to furnish trees to the Department of the Interior because the Department of the In-

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terior pays for them it is a mere change of tyrants. It does not make any difference which pays for them; it all comes out of the public purse. The question is: Should it be paid for at all in the sense of work that is to be carried out by Mr. Stewart?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is another matter.

Mr. SPROULE. In the distribution of these trees to the farmers, are they to be charged for, or are the farmers to pay anything for them?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. My department has nothing to do with the distribution of them. We hand them over to Mr. Stewart's branch and he deals with them entirely.

Mr. SPROULE. In connection with that, we would require more information because you are establishing a new line. It is practically the establishment of nurseries for the benefit of Manitoba and the North-west Territories. If you are going to supply the demand for trees which will be enormous in the future it would be well for us to know whether they are to be supplied free or to be charged for. If you are to become the patrons of the farmers in the whole country it would be a very expensive business.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not going to give them to the farmers. I am going to give them to the Department of the Interior and I am not able to give the hon. gentleman any information. The information does not really affect this vote because the money asked for here is not going to be used for that purpose in any way whatever. I do not raise any technical objection to the hon. gentleman's questions; I would be glad to give him the information if I could. But, the work, being paid for by the Department of the Interior, I am not in a position to give him any information in respect to it. This work is not being done by my officer, but by an officer responsible to and paid by that department. The products will be handed over to them to do with them as they see fit according to the needs of their work. I am not responsible for that part of it.

Mr. SPROULE. This vote in the first instance applies directly to the experimental farms. They are undertaking a new line of work for which the hon. Minister of Agriculture asks an amount to be voted in the estimates.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, Sir.

Mr. SPROULE. Well now, will the hon. minister wait till he hears the statement I am about to make before he so emphatically contradicts it? I say that he asks for that item in the estimates for these experimental farms while at the same time he tells us