

CHAPTER VIII.

NATURAL RESOURCES.

AGRICULTURE.

190. The estimated expenditure of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending March 31st, 1933, is \$320,762.04, which we have classified as follows:—

<i>Administrative—</i>	
Minister's and General Office	\$39,908.56
Markets Branch	8,026.80
Automobiles	5,000.00
Advertising	3,750.00
Farmers' Institutes	3,981.40
Women's Institutes	3,921.76
Farmers' Institutes powder	12,000.00
"Pound Act"	750.00
	\$77,338.52
<i>Preventive—</i>	
Fruit and Vegetable Pests	\$12,000.00
Plant Quarantine	28,020.00
Weed Control	1,000.00
Foul-brood Diseases	5,500.00
Grasshopper Extermination	500.00
T.B. Cattle Compensation	6,000.00
Veterinary Inspection	18,743.20
	71,763.20
<i>Educative—</i>	
Horticulture	\$15,879.80
Plant Entomology	11,821.60
Field Crops	9,063.20
Seed Improvement	1,250.00
Soil Classification	3,840.40
Live Stock Branch	20,310.88
Dairy Branch	26,930.92
District Agriculturists	47,996.72
Boys' and Girls' Clubs	3,000.00
Bulletins	3,750.00
Fairs	18,000.00
Fair Buildings	9,032.00
Miscellaneous	784.80
	171,660.32
	\$320,762.04
Estimated revenue (chiefly from "Preventive" work).....	35,000.00
Net estimated cost	\$285,762.04

191. Agriculture is basic and essential and ranks in value of production with lumbering and manufacturing. The average gross annual value of agricultural production for the period 1921-30 was \$50,685,560. This money found its way into every trade channel and directly and indirectly contributed in a substantial manner to the Provincial Treasury. Agriculture is the one natural resource capable of indefinite perpetuation, and therefore the fundamental requirements of the industry must receive every consideration when applying the pruning-knife to the expenditures of this Department.

192. It is conceded at once that so important an industry as Agriculture might reasonably well merit an annual governmental expenditure of \$285,762.04. It is of the very essence of economy that a State be as self-sustaining as possible in the way of supplying its people with essential food products. It may also be properly argued that from the standpoint of bringing new money into British Columbia, agricultural exports are playing an increasingly important part. To develop this industry, therefore, under ordinary economic conditions, might well come within the purview of any scheme of government.

193. Unfortunately, however, the question for the time being is not what is good for the industry. The question is: Has British Columbia the means at her disposal to continue to support the effort? And the answer to this question being "No," we find it necessary to recommend that this Department be merged with the proposed Department of Natural Resources to be administered by a Deputy having the necessary knowledge and understanding of the industry, and that the proposed expenditure be reduced to \$87,098.60, allocated thus:—

<i>Administrative—</i>	
Deputy and Staff	\$10,000.00
<i>Preventive—</i>	
Fruit and Vegetable Pests	\$12,000.00
Plant Quarantine	28,098.60
Foul-brood Control	5,500.00
Weed Control	1,000.00
Grasshopper Extermination	500.00
	47,098.60
<i>Educative—</i>	
Horticulture	\$5,000.00
Live Stock and Dairy Branches	10,000.00
Research-work by University	25,000.00
Bulletins and Lectures	5,000.00
Fairs and Fair Buildings	20,000.00
	65,000.00
	\$122,098.60
Less estimated revenue from "Preventive-work"	35,000.00
Net	\$87,098.60

ELIMINATIONS SUGGESTED.

194. *Administrative—*
- (a.) All marketing efforts should be sustained by producers of the commodities marketed.
 - (b.) Farmers' and Women's Institutes would undoubtedly become much more virile and effective if supported financially by those whom they are organized to benefit.
 - (c.) Social services now carried on under Women's Institutes should be transferred to the proposed Department of Social Services.
 - (d.) The "Pound Act" could be administered by the Police.
 - (e.) The need for automobiles would be materially lessened with the discontinuance of activities dealt with under the remaining classifications.
 - (f.) There are yet very extensive areas of cleared land available for settlement and it is suggested that such areas be filled up before people are encouraged to take up heavily wooded or stump land requiring the use of powder.
- Preventive—*
- (a.) Experience has taught dairy farmers that the only sane method of handling bovine tuberculosis is to establish T.B. Free Restricted Areas under the supervision of the Dominion Health of Animals Branch. Individual herd inspection and clean-up avails very little under a voluntary system which leaves a clean herd surrounded by herds whose owners do not choose to have their cattle tested. Under the Dominion plan, the Dominion Government pays compensation.
 - (b.) Veterinary inspection has been carried on chiefly in the milk-sheds of the larger cities. It has for its objects the improving of premises and methods in and by