

trade of foreign countries but information with regard to our trade with foreign countries.

Mr. SPROULE. This book is rather valuable to teachers, and I have many applications from them for it. They can show by comparison from these statistics the progress which Canada is making and its development in certain lines. The teachers use this book in their classes, and it is very convenient, as the figures are collated and compiled in one volume. Whereas, if they had not this book and desired to make comparisons, they would have to look through many volumes for the information. The hon. minister is making, I think, a great mistake in not giving these statistics. The book is one which is very much sought after. There is scarcely a year when I have not applications from teachers for it—more than I can supply. I desired to get more volumes but was told that the government had not the money to print more and could not supply them.

Mr. A. MARTIN. How many copies are printed?

Mr. FISHER. 6,000 English and 1,700 French.

Mr. A. MARTIN. How many are given each member?

Mr. FISHER. About five.

Mr. A. MARTIN. That would not go the round of the schools.

Mr. FOSTER. We can hardly be expected to furnish them to every school.

Mr. SPROULE. One of the reasons given by the government for asking an increase in the expenditure was that there was a demand from the schools. The year before last I had applications from about thirty teachers and had only five books to go around. It is desirable that we should disseminate the information which this book contains and from year to year I have been endeavouring to impress on the minister the importance of making a larger distribution.

At one o'clock, committee took recess.

Committee resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. I fully endorse what has been said by the leader of the opposition on this subject. I do not think this book can be considered cumbersome in size in view of the great amount of useful information it contains. However, those who have been used to looking for certain information in this book hitherto will be much disappointed if they cannot find it in the new edition. This book is greatly sought for by the people and the issue of it is altogether too small. I recollect that one young lady, a school teacher, to whom I once sent one, wrote me that it was almost a

library in itself. There are only very few persons who can afford to have books of reference and if we can get varied information in the statistical year-book it will be very valuable. Again, the minister should make a strong effort to have it published earlier in the year. I urge strongly that so far as possible the information hitherto contained in the book should be published from year to year, that the edition be enlarged, and that it be published at an earlier date.

Mr. FISHER. It is hoped that the book being smaller we will have a much larger edition for the same expenditure. The information on which the year-book is compiled is largely departmental and is not available until the end of the fiscal year. With the change in the fiscal year I hope to have the year-book published earlier. I assure my hon. friend that I will watch carefully to see that any information that can be supplied with regard to our own country shall be included in the volume.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Some special effort should be made to get the different departments to make their reports in proper time, for if one departmental report is delayed the issue of the year-book must be held in consequence.

Mr. SPROULE. Who is compiling the year-book now?

Mr. FISHER. It is under the direction of Mr. Blue, with the other statistical work.

Mr. SPROULE. Is Mr. Johnston connected with it?

Mr. FISHER. Mr. Johnston has practically retired. He is an old servant of the public and having asked for superannuation he requested also that it should not take effect until October and that he be given leave of absence in the meantime. I willingly complied with his request.

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Mr. STOCKTON. It has no doubt come to the notice of the members of this House that a blight or decay has fallen upon the cedar tree this season. It is not confined to the province of Ontario but as you pass along the railways to Quebec and thence to St. John you notice how greatly it has injured the cedar tree. I do not know whether this blight has been occasioned by the climatic conditions of the last winter or whether it is an insect that has attacked the trees, but several persons have suggested that I might call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the matter as he no doubt would have knowledge from his experts. What are the views of the minister on the matter?

Mr. FISHER. The cedar trees have been attacked this year to an extraordinary degree; the experts of the department have