

Mr. MILNE: It seems to me that this development may not be exactly along the right line. I think that at this particular time we should get away from fads and fancies. We have insects and bugs that are of economic importance to agriculture, and I think it is to those that our entomologists should direct their attention. I think that in a good many instances the entomologists are inclined to fads and making a tremendous collection of bugs and insects that are of no economic value so far as agriculture is concerned. These steel cases are an indication of the line along which they travel. I notice from the Auditor General's report of two years ago that a sum of \$2,000 was spent for cases, some steel, and some mahogany coffins for these bugs to lie in. This year we intend to spend \$3,500 along the same line. I am not prepared to say exactly what the nature of the work that is being done is, but I am inclined to think that the entomologists are not directing enough energy upon insects that are of economic importance and are spending too much time on what might be called fads, such as that of getting collections together.

Mr. TOLMIE: Reverting to the importation of plants through the post office, I understand there were certain abuses with regard to inspection on the other side. Do I understand there is no more inspection in Great Britain?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That is right.

Mr. TOLMIE: Through what ports on the Pacific will these plants be admitted?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Victoria and Vancouver. We have just recently constructed a laboratory in Vancouver for that purpose.

Mr. TOLMIE: What progress is the department making with the corn borer? Is it gaining at all? Is it scattering into new territory, or is it still pinned down to those counties in Ontario where it existed a few years ago?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes I notice it has appeared as far east as Kemptville. It is spreading into new territory, although in the older territory, for instance down in Essex county, I understand, restrictive measures have been employed with success, in co-operation with the farmers, and by cutting the ensilage corn at a different period, a great many insects have been destroyed going into the silo. Employing cultural methods, such as late fall plowing and deep plowing, are also considered to be quite helpful.

Mr. WHITE: What success has the department had in combating the corn borer by introducing parasites?

[Mr. Motherwell.]

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Nature can sometimes be helped out a little by supplying parasites for particular kinds of pests. For instance, the grasshopper has a parasite that I think is somewhat helpful in destroying it; the corn borer has a parasite; and we are helping to combat pests by the introduction of these parasites. In this particular case the experiment is so recent that we are not, as yet, able to tell the result. It is hoped, however, that the parasite employed will multiply itself rapidly and assist us in exterminating the pest.

Mr. FORKE: I want at this point to put in a good word for the birds, although it may seem a trifling thing to speak about the preservation of the birds out in the country districts. Also, I want to say a word for the elimination of the cat as far as we possibly can accomplish it.

Mr. HOCKEN: The pussy cat?

Mr. FORKE: Yes, the pussy cat. I repeat, it may seem a rather trifling thing to mention the little birds we find on our prairies, but they are the greatest insect destroyers and the greatest friends that the farmer has anywhere. I want to urge all the farmer members of this House to do all they can to preserve the bird life around their farms and their homes.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Hear, hear.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Would my hon. friend make any distinction between the species of birds? I understand an effort is being made at the present time in the United States to exterminate the crows.

Mr. FORKE: Well, I do not know whether the crow is to be regarded as a useful bird or not.

Mr. HOCKEN: What about the rats if we exterminate the pussy cats?

Mr. FORKE: It is rather a wide field of discussion to enter upon at the present time, but I assure my hon. friend that I would attach more importance to poison in getting rid of rats than I would to cats. Of course, the birds to which I refer are the insect eating birds. They are the species that I am anxious to preserve. Anyone who has studied this question and learns the number of insects that one insect eating bird will destroy even in a day realizes the importance of preserving the bird life of the country. Man is altering the balance of nature by destroying certain species of life. When you