

session. If we had such a board, with proper representation, I believe a great many of the difficulties that now exist in regard to grading, marketing and processing would be done away with. A few moments ago I referred to Canada Packers. I have in my hand the last annual report of that company, which I received just a few days ago. I am not going to read from it at any length, but I recommend this report to all hon. members.

Mr. GOLDING: Does the hon. member think he is the only one who has read it?

Mr. PERLEY: If my hon. friend has read it he will see that the packers themselves say they make so much profit on every pound of pork, beef or other meat that goes through their plants, no matter what animal it may come from. I am glad to know the hon. gentleman who interrupted has read the report, for I am sure he will agree with what I have said and will join me in recommending it to the attention of hon. members.

I wish to refer briefly to the matter of the disposition of agricultural products of which surpluses have been created because of the war. In certain products we now have surpluses as a result of increased production and other causes; and after listening to the statement made this afternoon by the Prime Minister we must realize that our difficulties are not at an end yet, that we may still have a bad year or two ahead. I suggest that the minister should make a start in implementing some of the suggestions contained in the report of the reconstruction committee dated December 16, 1943. At page five of that report, under the heading, "Industrial Utilization of Farm Products," I find this:

That a new government-supported laboratory limited to research on the utilization of farm products and with facilities for pilot-plant investigations, be established in the prairie provinces.

The suggestion was made this afternoon that we should have more packing plants, perhaps smaller in size, which would help take care of surplus live stock marketed from time to time, but here we have a definite recommendation in this report. Then on page 24, in regard to the industrial utilization of farm products, I find this:

A survey of Canadian research on the utilization of farm products reveals that in the past agricultural research has been directed mainly to increasing production; in the future, greater emphasis should be placed on utilization problems.

So that I would ask the minister, when he comes to discuss these items in detail, to say what has been done in this connection and just how far the government is going in carrying out the suggestions contained in this very

worth-while report. At page 27 of the same report I see a reference to one or two interesting items having to do with a general research programme which they suggest in connection with such matters as wheat starch, vegetable proteins, vegetable oils and so on. I think we should have a statement from the minister on some of these items, whichever he thinks most suitable, as to what is being done in regard to accepting some of the suggestions advanced by this committee.

The last item under this estimate has to do with the agricultural food board. This is a new item in the minister's estimates, and it provides for a proposed expenditure of \$47,600,000. If we go back to item 5 we see a proposed expenditure of \$16,500,000 on freight assistance in connection with western feed grains; then we have another item of \$8,000,000 for a subsidy on western wheat. If we add together the first two items I mentioned we get a total of \$64,000,000; if we subtract that amount from the total of \$73,500,000 we have left \$9,500,000, and if we subtract that from last year's total we find that the net increase this year is only something like \$4,500,000. I believe this new item involving some \$47,000,000 should be explained thoroughly by the minister, who should tell us exactly what is to be done under the new board that is to be set up and how the work is to be carried on. Also with respect to these items the minister should tell us the number of people employed this year as compared with last year. I have before me the auditor general's report for last year. If you go through this report and take the minister's estimates item by item you will see all the details. I find that in one year there was an increase of almost one hundred employees drawing salaries of from \$2,400 to \$3,000 a year, in addition to their expenses, as well as many stenographers and clerks. I think we should be told by the minister just what increase is anticipated for this year.

There are one or two interesting items in the auditor general's report on which I should like some information from the minister. They have to do with advertising. At page A-71 I see an item for advertising with respect to the production of wheat and coarse grains, amounting to \$15,000. I should like to know what is to be done this year under this item. Then on page A-73 I find an advertising item of \$7,000 for special war-time pamphlets. On the same page we have an item of \$30,000 for advertising "re farm women's activities," and the comment on the following pages is that this—

... represents payments to the Canadian Advertising Agency Limited, Montreal, for