

There is a sufficient amount in the estimates to carry it through the present season. Before this decision was finally reached, crops had been seeded and activities for this summer started. These activities will be carried on to the end of the season, and the farm will then be closed out as far as its operation as an experimental farm is concerned. I am not in a position at the moment to state what will be done with the farm. The only thing to do is to move the stock from there to other farms as far as it is required at other farms, and to sell at auction what is not required. The natural thing to do with the land would be to sell it by auction. To suggest that there is a value of \$119,000 involved merely means that we have built roads here and there throughout the farm in order to enable the public to get over the farm and see the work being carried on. Buildings have been built for experimental purposes, and expenditures have been made in planting the farm in a manner to make it presentable to the visiting public. Many of those expenditures have not produced anything valuable to persons who merely want to buy a section of land to operate as a farm, and therefore we could not expect to obtain from any purchaser anything like the amount of money so expended. But that is not what I had in mind last night when I mentioned that some inquiries have been made. The inquiries made were not by any private person or by any organization of private individuals. As a matter of fact, it was an inquiry from the government of Saskatchewan, and I do not wish at present to comment further on it because it is only in the nature of an inquiry.

Mr. BROOKS: In connection with the encouragement of the production of sugar from sugar beets, is the minister taking into consideration what effect it might have on the trade of the maritime provinces? I refer for instance to the sale of potatoes and fish in Cuba and the West Indies. As the minister knows, in days gone by Cuba was one of our best markets for the sale of potatoes from the maritimes, and the West Indies for the sale of fish. Since we have not been taking so much sugar from Cuba and the West Indies, our trade in potatoes and fish has fallen off very considerably. It seems to me that encouraging the production of sugar from the sugar beet in Canada would have a further detrimental effect upon trade which we might have with that section of the hemisphere. I understand that the West Indies trade treaty comes up for revision some time soon, and it seems to me that this matter should have careful consideration, keeping in mind conditions prevailing in the maritime provinces.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. BLACKMORE: So long as the investigation is conducted with sufficient care, we shall be completely satisfied. The hon. member will discover that the development of the beet sugar industry in Canada has absolutely no serious effect on his fish or potato trade.

Mr. BROOKS: Well, it has not developed yet; it is the future to which I refer.

Mr. LEADER: I rise to support the minister in his attempt to cut down the cost of experimental farms in Canada. Last night he declared that he takes full responsibility for this action. I want him to know that I am giving him my whole-hearted support. Since I have been a member of this house I have taken the stand that if money means anything, and we are to retrench, we could very well curtail the expenditures being made on the experimental farms. Therefore in speaking this afternoon I am just being consistent with the attitude I adopted in former years. Have hon. members taken the trouble to look at the expenditures made yearly on our experimental farms? No doubt many have. It is a fair statement that there is an annual deficit in the neighbourhood of \$2,000,000 on our experimental farm operations. For last year the auditor general's report shows that the total expenditure was \$2,117,002, and the revenue was only \$220,303, leaving a deficit of approximately \$2,000,000.

Cutting down expenditures by governments is not popular. We heard the hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Tucker), and the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. LaCroix), objecting to any curtailment of expenditure in their constituencies on experimental farms. This indicates what I mean when I say it is hard to practise retrenchment. Some hon. member may ask, "Are there any experimental farms in your constituency?" I shall have to say no, but there are many splendid farms. But it is not because there are no experimental farms in my constituency that I support the minister at this time. I believe that I am speaking not only for myself but for my constituents in what I say. They know, as I know, as we all know, that the experimental farms have done much useful work in the past. In pioneer days these experimental farms did useful work in the more or less isolated districts. But I claim that they are not so necessary now, especially when we have so many, some twenty-six or twenty-seven, I believe, throughout the dominion, five or six of them in Saskatchewan. As the minister stated last night, much of the work of these experimental farms overlaps. Therefore I think it is an absolutely sound policy to close up some of them. I believe that one