

entered into, and inspection of the work done, and a full report made to Parliament of the whole matter.

We have in mind a general conference each year with representatives from the provinces in order that the work may be co-ordinated, and so avoid duplication between federal and provincial departments. We have in mind also development of a publications office by means of which the people of Canada will be kept continually informed as to agricultural work in progress in all parts of the country. In these ways something like a real co-operation between the Dominion and the provinces will be achieved, provincial rights will be safeguarded and sufficient control will be exercised by this Government over the federal grants. As we earnestly desire to treat this whole matter from an economic and national standpoint, eliminating party politics and party advantage, so also we look to the governments of the provinces to take the same stand and to work with the same ends in view. It is obvious that the success of the whole scheme is dependent on the spirit in which it is approached and operated.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, although the sum provided for under this Bill may at first seem large—and perhaps is sufficiently large for the initiation of the work, it is none too large for the work to be done. If the provinces co-operate with us, as we hope and as we have every reason to expect, it is my conviction that, considering the magnitude of the task, its nature, and considering also the growth of this country, it will be found in a few years that this appropriation will be unequal to the demand. While that may be left for future consideration, I would like to state clearly at this time that I believe this House will, in the not far distant future, be prepared to supplement this appropriation by still larger amounts and that when that time comes the House will consider it from the same standpoint that I ask you now to consider it, viz., that by such a measure we are providing funds for effective and lasting development along right lines of our greatest national asset.

On this side of the House and on that are many men who either know by experience the farm life of our country, or whose fathers or forefathers have toiled on the land. It is well for all to keep in vision that solitary figure in the distant furrow, that stooped form tending the hearth of the isolated home—symbols and types of our national necessities, our national virtues, and our national strength. Here between these four walls we sit year by year making the laws of our country. We do it, amidst much strife, sometimes ill, sometimes well, too often attaching importance and permanence to that which is neither permanent nor important. Our laws would be better—

Mr. BURRELL.

there would be less bitterness in our strife—if we were oftener moved by a sincere desire to lighten the work and brighten the lives of those who, in the silence and solitude of the fields and woods, are doing the foundation work of our common country.

Mr. E. W. NESBITT (North Oxford): I do not wish to speak on the Bill until I have the pleasure of seeing it. I should like, however, to congratulate the hon. minister on the excellent spirit in which he has introduced his Bill. Those of us who know anything about farming know that, if it is possible to reach the vast majority of farmers with an education, we can vastly increase the product of the land. The difficulty is to reach the farmers; we are not reaching them through the agricultural colleges to any great extent. When a young man comes back from the Agricultural College in Ontario, which is the best we have in Canada, and which is probably as good as there is in any country, he benefits his community, let alone himself. We can see the benefit he derives from the education he receives there in better farming. I do not know what my hon. friend proposes in the way of education to reach the farming population; but I have had an idea that the best way to reach the farmers of this country is by illustrative farms in their immediate neighbourhood. They will not go to the agricultural college except on an excursion once in a while; when they go there, they do not see anything practical except the agricultural college; and they do not learn anything there of a practicable nature. The young fellows who go there do not come back to the farm for some reason; perhaps they take up the teaching profession. A great many of them are town fellows. I want to impress upon the hon. minister that this money will be practically wasted, unless he can reach the agricultural people with that education. We want to catch the ordinary old farmer like myself, the fellow that has to work, and give him some education. Do not go into a lot of theory, but teach him how to make the hens lay better; teach him how to grow a hog up to two hundred pounds in six months; teach him how to make a cow produce ten thousand pounds of milk a year, in place of thirty-five hundred, with practically the same feed; teach him how he can raise fifty, sixty or seventy bushels of barley in place of twenty; and teach him how he can raise thirty bushels of wheat as easily as he can raise fifteen. Compare the average wheat that is produced in Western Canada and the United States with what is produced in England; the farmers in England have been working their land for four or five hundred years, and they beat us nearly double although some of our