

establishing a laboratory in the National Research Council laboratory on Sussex street. Before yielding to anything the minister would do well to examine the location and find out if there is sufficient ground to conduct varietal tests of grain. The laboratory would require some ground for that purpose. There are three or four acres in connection with the Sackville laboratory. Has the minister looked into that phase of the matter?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I agree that the National Research Council laboratory, because of lack of space for experiments, would not be satisfactory. There is no intention this year of proceeding with the laboratory the hon. member has mentioned.

Mr. GARDINER: What progress has been made in providing the province of Alberta with seed cleaning apparatus at Lethbridge or Edmonton?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): No steps are being taken this year towards the establishment of a seed cleaning plant at Lethbridge or Edmonton.

Mr. GARDINER: This matter has been under consideration for some time. The former minister made provision for a seed cleaning plant at Moose Jaw, and when the estimate for that plant was going through he stated that the matter of providing Alberta with a similar or smaller plant was also under consideration. When hard times came we realized it would not be advisable to spend a large sum of money for a seed cleaning plant in Alberta. However there was a suggestion of and a good deal of discussion concerning the possibility of attaching a seed cleaning plant to the government terminal elevators at Edmonton or Lethbridge, or both. I understood the minister promised last year to consider this matter, and we had hoped he would have some proposal which would afford accommodation up until such time as conditions improve.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): There is a difference of opinion among the Alberta registered seed growers as to whether the plant should be at Edmonton or Lethbridge, and if at Edmonton whether it would be advisable to have it attached to the commercial elevator in that place. I am sorry I have not further detailed information. If I had I should be glad to give it to the hon. member for Acadia.

Mr. GARDINER: I trust the minister will give the matter some consideration, because it is of great importance. I understand, however, that if the registered seed growers in the province cannot agree, he is faced with some difficulty.

Mr. WEIR (Macdonald): Is it not true that there is a difference of opinion among the different growers as to the method of establishing seed plants? I recall that in Manitoba there are more localized plants. In that province I believe they receive some sort of subvention from the Dominion government, and they have established smaller municipal units. The Graysville Pure Bred Brome Grass Growers' Association at Graysville, have a first class cleaning plant, and I believe they received some assistance from the federal government. That applies also to the Seed Barley Growers' Association at Miami. I think there is a difference of opinion as to the advisability of establishing large or small units. I was wondering what the policy of the government would be with regard to extending the development of seed cleaning plants.

Item agreed to.

For experiments in dehydration of fruits and vegetables, \$10,000.

Mr. SPENCER: What progress has been made in connection with this work?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The work has been along these lines: We have had experts in the old land studying the procedure they follow in their efforts to use fruit that is otherwise not salable. We supply the apparatus and the expert, and the goods manufactured in the plants where the experiments take place are disposed of by those plants. They receive whatever profits there may be. On the whole I think we may report that very satisfactory results have been obtained in connection with deciding what specimens of fruit are most satisfactory for this work.

Mr. GARDINER: Are the manufacturers taking advantage of this expert advice?

Item agreed to.

Live stock, \$1,380,000.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): Under this item I feel in duty bound to make a few remarks. As will be noted, there is a reduction of \$150,000 in the estimates, and in my view that is not in proportion to reductions made in some other departments. I join with those who have expressed their regret that at a time like this, when agriculture is so down at the heels, it is found necessary to curtail the expenditures for agricultural purposes. As the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Weir) said a few days ago, agriculture is suffering to an extent far greater than any other department of the government. The estimates of