

The hon. member for Moose Jaw made a fine speech in the house some time ago in connection with this matter. Like other hon. members he had been in the United States and had seen what that country was doing. There are not details for this item, but I do not think enough money is being voted. This work affects not only the people on the farms but those in the city, and it is very important in connection with post-war activities.

In 1938 the United States appropriated a tremendous amount of money, but it was small in comparison for what is appropriated by the chemical industry of that country for research work. That industry appropriates between two and three per cent of its total sales values and there are industries in Great Britain which appropriate like amounts. You have to keep up to date in research. The Minister of Agriculture can correct me if I am wrong, but I understand that in 1938 the United States appropriated about one-seventh of one per cent of the value of their crops. We should have a full statement from the minister so that we shall know just what is to be done.

Mr. PERLEY: I was going to speak along the same line and ask the minister to explain exactly the nature of this expenditure. I should like to know what part of this research work will be carried on in western Canada where many farm products are produced. What staff does he propose to set up?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I do not know just how extensive a statement hon. members would care to have, but I can make a concise statement as to what is proposed. This item is to deal with one particular development that the national research council has under way at the present time. The government considers it essential that there be an expansion of research work for the utilization of agricultural crops including the establishment of a branch laboratory in western Canada to study industrial uses of surplus crops. This will involve the construction and equipping of a laboratory building located in western Canada and the provision of additional staff at Ottawa and at the new laboratory. For 1944-45 it is estimated that work on the erection and equipping of the western laboratory will cost \$200,000 and that a further amount of \$125,000 will be required for operating supplies and staff.

The need for this expansion was discussed at a recent meeting of representatives of the federal Department of Agriculture, the provincial departments of agriculture and the provincial universities of the three prairie provinces and the national research council.

It was recognized, and a resolution was passed recommending that steps be taken immediately to provide for this expansion. It was understood that this expansion programme would not in any way interfere with scientific work now being carried on in the west by the federal or provincial governments.

Mr. PERLEY: Where will the laboratory be located?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I propose recommending that it be located where it can best serve the agricultural research needs of the three western provinces.

Mr. PERLEY: What about the centre of Saskatchewan?

Mr. WRIGHT: The minister did not state the type of research that would be done by this laboratory in western Canada. He said that it was to do research in the utilization of surplus farm products. Can he go farther and state specifically some of the research work that it will do?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I am not in a position to go into technical questions, but generally it is for the utilization of surplus farm products of all kinds.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): What farm products? I should like to know just what is to be done, and why is it limited to the western provinces? There are so many farm products which industry could use and turn into products for reshipment to the farms. One of our problems to-day, of course, is to get more people back on the farms, and there are a lot of ways in which that can be done. We have, of course, to make the farm more attractive. But then there are products that can be grown on the farm which could be utilized in the factories of Ontario, for instance. Take soya beans in Ontario. Is there a reduction plant for soya beans in Ontario? How many of those reduction plants have we? What other products is it proposed that we should grow on the farms to be utilized in the factories of Ontario? We have a year of sunshine and we should use it to the full. We are using fifty million years of sunshine when we use coal and oil, and it takes comparatively little labour to do that. We should see to it that we utilize to the full the one year of sunshine that we get on the farms, so that we may put as many of our people as possible to work. The minister has enlightened us very little. Skim milk is another product that can be used in factories. Would the minister give us a comparison between what is being done in Canada