

*Supply—Agriculture*

supplementaries either. The fact is that our department is making a request for more money.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes, you do.

**Mr. Gardiner:** You can get the particulars of the amounts which have been expended from year to year in the different provinces, but we vote a lump sum of money, as I expect we shall do in a few minutes under the item that was being discussed just before we reverted to this one, and we shall go on making expenditures in Newfoundland on that basis. What I am concerned about in this item is that I have not got, whatever others may have, and I do not think the department has, full information on where experimental stations ought to be established in the province of Newfoundland in accordance with the same principles we have applied to the other provinces. I can assure the hon. member that in due course we shall have them established there.

**Mr. George:** I should like to ask a question on item 15. It has to do with the rehabilitation of the marshlands. In view of the work which has been done experimentally at Nappan, will the minister consider the establishment of illustration stations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to investigate the soil fertility of the marshlands?

**Mr. Gardiner:** I presume the questions which were handed to me are the questions which are in the hon. member's mind at the moment.

**Mr. George:** No, sir. My question has to do with the establishment of illustration stations rather than marsh rehabilitation. I was wondering whether the government had considered the advisability of establishing illustration stations throughout New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in connection with the dike lands.

**Mr. Gardiner:** There are 14 illustration stations in New Brunswick and 14 in Nova Scotia, similar to those which are established in the other provinces. The answer I have to the direct question which was asked is that there is no money taken out of the vote which was set aside for the reconditioning of the marshlands for the setting up of these stations. I presume that if we do set them up there they will be an enlargement of the principle that we have now for general purposes. If I were to examine the map carefully I might find that some of the stations we already have are in these areas, perhaps not on the marshlands. The only one that I am certain is there on the marshlands is an addition that was made to the farm at Nappan. I have been there two or three times

[Mr. Gardiner.]

myself. I mentioned here the other night the excellent work which has been done there in demonstrating that three times as much alfalfa or three times as much hay of any kind can be grown on these lands when they are properly cared for and treated as can be grown when they are allowed to go along in the state in which much of them has been in recent years.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** Can the minister tell me how many illustration stations there are in British Columbia?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Seventeen.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** I am in agreement with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Westmorland. The advisability, I would say the necessity, of establishing certain areas, under the control of the experimental farm detached from the present experimental farm, on areas of marshlands which are being reclaimed and drained was placed before the committee and before the minister last year. It was suggested that different blocks of 100 acres, or more, which could now be purchased at a nominal price should be acquired. I agree with the hon. member for Westmorland that it is most essential to give encouragement and instruction to the farmers who in recent years have suffered so much in these areas. Under the policy of reclamation, different qualities of marshlands will be reclaimed by the government. Certain areas should be taken over and set aside for pasture, and certain areas for a high quality of timothy and clover hay, such as they now produce at the experimental farm at Nappan, where they produce three tons per acre.

The land now produces only a small tonnage per acre. Not only that, but the hay produced is of a most inferior quality. The hay produced at the Nappan farm is of high quality, while the growth on the land being reclaimed is an inferior grade not worth half as much per ton as that produced at the experimental farm.

I am in complete agreement with what has been said by my colleague from Westmorland county, in which constituency there is the greatest acreage of marshlands to be found anywhere in eastern Canada. It is very essential that the government take over such areas as quickly as possible and bring them to the highest state of production in order to demonstrate to the private marsh owners and the people generally the benefits under proper treatment of the land to be reclaimed.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow this item to pass without expressing the special appreciation of my farmer constituents for the excellent work done throughout the years by the staff at the experimental