

*Supply—Agriculture*

Evaluation of tillage methods in the production of cash crops.

Studies on the use of crop residues in the cropping system to maintain soil physical condition.

Studies on rates of planting cash crops in conjunction with fertility levels.

Soil compaction studies as related to cropping systems, soil physical condition and soil moisture.

Studies on soil physical condition as affected by synthetic soil conditioners at different depths and deep rooted legumes.

Study of tile flow characteristics and plant nutrient losses into tile drains under different cropping systems.

Breeding and selection in sweet clover for rootrot resistance in this soil improving crop.

Introduction and observation of new grasses and legumes to determine whether adapted to the area.

Item agreed to.

7. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment, \$6,470,910.

**Mr. Peters:** May I ask the minister where this acquisition of buildings is taking place? Does this refer to the headquarters here in Ottawa?

**Mr. Harkness:** No. The buildings listed here are for stations right across Canada. There are a few laboratory buildings for the central experimental farm included, but the great bulk of the building is on experimental stations scattered across the country.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Is any expenditure for the hon. minister's proposed new administration building listed under the Department of Public Works estimates?

**Mr. Harkness:** Yes. If a new administration building is built the vote would be found under the Department of Public Works and the work would be carried on by that department.

**Mr. Peters:** May I ask the minister if the provision of animal laboratories in conjunction with the experimental stations is included in this estimate?

**Mr. Harkness:** The hon. member means the one at Kapuskasing?

**Mr. Peters:** Actually I have in mind the station at New Liskeard, which is a provincial station. They have put in laboratories at the Ontario experimental farm there and I was wondering whether the federal government is doing something similar. It would be a laboratory sufficient to carry out tests for tuberculosis and similar work.

**Mr. Harkness:** I do not know what kind of laboratories have been put in on a provincial farm, naturally, but this vote does include funds for a considerable number of laboratories of different types at different places.

Item agreed to.

Production and marketing branch—  
9. Agricultural products board administration, \$10,000.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Would the minister tell us something about the services which this vote provides?

**Mr. Harkness:** This is a board which was set up some years ago to buy or sell agricultural products, particularly to sell them on behalf of the government. The board has been used on several occasions in the past to dispose of certain surpluses, and it might well be used again during the next year or two to help us dispose of some of our pork surplus.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Does it deal with wheat surpluses?

**Mr. Harkness:** No. As the hon. gentleman knows, the selling of wheat comes entirely under the Department of Trade and Commerce.

**Mr. Peters:** Has this board any functions with relation to the disposal program under the Colombo plan? Does it deal with transactions of a welfare type? There must be some agency which deals with such matters as this.

**Mr. Harkness:** This has nothing whatever to do with the Colombo plan. The board was set up, some eight or ten years ago, in the first place in order to import butter when there was a butter shortage in the country. Afterwards it was used to dispose of stocks of meat. Since then it has been comparatively inactive. However, as I say, we might well make a considerable amount of use of it in disposing of the present surplus of canned pork.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I do not know whether this particular problem which is in my mind would come under this item or not, but I suspect, from the outline which the minister has given, that it would. I was tempted to deal with my particular concern when the hon. member for Vancouver South was speaking about the reduction of the tomato crops in the Okanagan valley in British Columbia.

The opposite situation has developed in the county of Essex, which is, of course, one of the great tomato producing counties of this country. I will not enter into superlatives as to which is the best, but I had always understood, in my inexpert interpretation of these