

northern Saskatchewan to buy animals as foundation live stock for their herds. Is anyone going to say that the maintenance of a herd which makes available the best foundation live stock that can be procured in Saskatchewan is not worth \$10,000? The men who will be thrown out of work are older men with families. They could not make a better contribution to the winning of this war than by assisting our farmers in producing the very best live stock and learning the best farming methods. I heard the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ralston) make his budget speech. Our effort should be to place our economic machinery, including our people, to the best possible use. Money should not be the determining factor. Are we increasing the efficiency of the people of western Canada by closing a station which has given leadership and provided advice and instruction to a whole section of Saskatchewan? Are we helping to strengthen Canada by closing that station?

Those hon. members who have visited the prairie west know something of the homes which have been established there. The tendency has been to tell the people that because they are going to bring up their families in that part of the country, because their children will first come in contact with the world there, they should try to improve their home conditions and make them more congenial. There has been a real campaign to urge people to plant trees, particularly fruit trees to provide a certain amount of fruit for their families and make real homes for themselves. At times there has been a tendency to scoff at what can be done in connection with the growing of fruit in Saskatchewan.

Just a year ago I visited the farm of Doctor Seager Wheeler where there are fifty acres under fruit. There is a splendid fruit orchard at that experimental station. I have seen literally tons of fine plums, crabapples and cherries which could not be disposed of in those orchards. People go to that experimental station and they are told what fruit trees will be suitable to their locality. There is a horticultural branch of the experimental station at Morden, but I am told that things can be grown there which cannot be grown in any other part of western Canada. I am told also that anything that will grow at Rosthern will grow in almost every part of the west. There is nothing more discouraging to people who may not have much in the way of funds than to spend money on fruit trees and have them die the first winter. They soon give up the idea of trying to go into fruit. Different trees are tested at the Rosthern station and information is available as to what trees are suitable to the different locali-

[Mr. Tucker.]

ties. People obtain this information and then go home and establish orchards. To-day we see farm after farm with nice orchards, all of which tends to make these people feel more at home in the place where they may have to spend the rest of their lives.

Is any official at Ottawa going to tell me that a work which helps to make real homes for hundreds of people in western Canada is not worth \$10,000? I hope the committee will pardon me for speaking perhaps too feelingly in the matter, but I cannot help doing so when I think that some official in the Department of Agriculture is advising that this wonderful work for our people should be discontinued in order to save \$10,000 or perhaps even \$14,000 or \$15,000. Any hon. member who had at heart the interest of his constituents would not fail to raise his voice with some feeling.

Year after year field days are held at that experimental station and these are attended by hundreds of people. The minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan, one of the outstanding agriculturists in this dominion, attended and gave a fine and instructive address at the last one. This is the only place in that district where an affair of this kind can so advantageously be held. Hundreds of people have benefited by visiting that farm. They come from as far away as 150 miles and obtain the very best ideas for improving their live stock and receive the latest information as to what fruit trees will be suitable to their farms. Not only do the people in the immediate neighbourhood appreciate the work being done on that farm; it is appreciated by people all through northern Saskatchewan. I have a letter here from the Prince Albert board of trade, a city which is represented in this house by the Prime Minister. I do not want to weary the committee, but I want to do everything in my power to plead with this government not to make the mistake which I think they will be making if they close that farm. This letter is dated June 5, 1940. Hon. members will note it is from the Prince Albert board of trade, not the Rosthern board of trade. It reads in part:

In our opinion it would be a tremendous mistake, as the present staff enjoys the confidence of all the people in this part of the province and they are doing a most valuable work. While the difference between the cost of operation and the revenues received does not involve a very large amount of money, in the alternative, but we very much prefer the first suggestion, it could be carried on in a modified form during the war and then put back on its present status.

We feel it would be preferable to shut down another station not as highly developed and retain Rosthern.