

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, the Inquiries Act applies only to civil matters.

Mr. CASGRAIN: What inquiries might be instituted under subsection 2.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Inquiries in connection with estates which have been held in abeyance and things of that kind are the only requests of which I have heard.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Subsection 1 reads: "The governor in council may, whenever he deems it expedient," and so on. Is it intended that each application shall be dealt with separately?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Oh, yes, no commission will issue except on special application.

Mr. JACOBS: I suppose we have corresponding rights in other countries?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Unless we have we will not issue a commission.

Mr. JACOBS: Reciprocity.

Mr. ELLIOTT: A step in the right direction.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Gobeil in the chair.

Entomology, including investigations and inspections relating to destructive insects and pests, \$350,000.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We were discussing this item last Friday and the concluding words of the minister were that last year there had been no neglect of the grasshopper work, that everything was done properly and expeditiously. I do not know personally but what it was but I pointed out that whoever was to blame, the fact was that the provincial government ran out of poison bait on more than one occasion giving the grasshoppers a free fling for quite a while. The result was that their flight was more general and scattered and they spread to pastures new as far north as the North Saskatchewan river, and likewise over the other prairie provinces, according to grasshopper maps supplied by the minister's officials. I should like to know if any of the votes under the relief act were earmarked for the control of grasshoppers last year? I know there is one this year of a million and a half dollars.

[Mr. Jacobs.]

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I could not say how the money was supplied. My memory is that it was in the nature of a loan to the province but I believe there was no special earmarking. One of the difficulties last year was that the organization was not as complete as it is this year. This year every energy of both governments has been devoted to this problem.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The votes and proceedings indicate that there is a large loan of a million and a half dollars for the control of grasshoppers in Saskatchewan during the month of May alone. I was just wondering how much of this was to control grasshoppers and how much was to control "Grithoppers." A vast sum has been poured into Saskatchewan; I am not critical as they will need it and a lot more to secure any political results, but I should like to direct attention to the support or lack of support given last year and that given this year. Last year there was no election and the grasshoppers had it pretty nearly their own way. I am not critical except to approve about money being spent to control grasshoppers but there is such an amazing difference between the amount going to Saskatchewan and that going to the two adjoining provinces for all purposes. As far as I can make out, the other provinces are covered with an equal density of grasshoppers, but a lesser crop acreage. The maps show that Saskatchewan is well in the red but so are Manitoba and Alberta. There are no large sums, or indeed any at all, going out to control grasshoppers in Alberta and Manitoba but there are no elections in those two provinces. I think the minister would be well advised to post himself on these things. I have been unable to get to the bottom of it but I have learned enough to know that millions are being poured into Saskatchewan and relatively much more than the adjoining provinces combined. It has not been a few thousands at a time, it was a million and a half at a time and there have been nearly \$6,000,000 poured into Saskatchewan for grasshopper control, relief road work, etc., during this month of May, and it is not out yet. There may be another loan shower before the end of the month. The areas in the other provinces may not be quite as large, as Saskatchewan turns out a crop nearly equal to that of the other two provinces combined, but these other provinces have nearly as many grasshoppers.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: Will the hon. gentleman explain what he means by saying that \$6,000,000 have been sent this month to Saskatchewan to look after the grasshoppers?