

along without this department at all. Let the provinces do the work. The dominion is being governed now by the provinces; almost every time a bill comes up we have to get the opinions of the attorneys general of the provinces. Some hon. members who have sat on municipal council would call these fads and frills, and would give short shift to such matters. What insect has a better right to be inspected than the insect which drove so many children from the schools last fall and which, if you can believe what the medical associations say, will drive them away again next fall? There is not a dollar in the estimates for that. On the other hand we have these items and these increases. I do not see why parliament should deal with one of these estimates one week and another similar item the following week. Surely one item should do. Let us do something to stop this over-government and over-taxation. Here is an item which I would vote to strike out, if such a motion were to be made.

Mr. GARDINER: I sometimes think it is a good thing that human beings are not inspected just as carefully as we inspect some of the insects and animals; some weaknesses probably would be found out if that were done. In reference to these estimates coming down within a week of each other, the hon. member who has just spoken is responsible for their being at least three weeks nearer each other than otherwise would have been the case. On two or three occasions very early in the session I did attempt to bring my estimates before the house on Tuesday nights, the only nights of the week when it was possible to get them in. I well remember that on one occasion the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Church) moved an amendment to the motion to go into supply which took up all that evening, so that it was not possible to get my estimates before the house.

That does not explain the whole matter, however. Every hon. member sitting on the front benches of the opposition knows that the main estimates have to be made up by the officials of the department in the fall of the year; that is, they are made up before the new year commences, and they are submitted to parliament very early in the session. Probably the hon. member who has just spoken was not in the house, but on three previous occasions I explained that the reason for items such as the one under consideration was that a reorganization was going on in the department and that as a result of that reorganization a reclassification of the whole service was being made by the civil service commission. Because of that we were not able to put into the main estimates all the items

with regard to staffs resulting from this reorganization. Many items of that kind appear in the supplementaries.

The item now under discussion, having to do with live stock and poultry, makes provision for just such things as we have been discussing this afternoon. I have noted that all hon. members who have spoken, with the exception of the last hon. member, have held the opinion that an even larger amount should be expended under these particular estimates. I quite agree that we could do double the amount of work if we could get sufficient funds, and we could do it to good advantage. At the same time I realize that there is some force in the argument of the last speaker that we should not devote to agriculture too great a proportion of the money that is available from taxation. I should like to see the amount much greater than it is, but other ministers in charge of other departments consider their work just as important for the welfare of Canada, and of course they must have their proportions of whatever amount we feel it is proper to take from the people by way of taxation in any one year.

With regard to the question whether we are dealing with humans or merely with animals, I do not think there is an item anywhere in the expenditures for production services which does not relate closely to the human being. We investigate matters concerning insects because we know a maggot in an apple may affect its sale to the human being in Great Britain or Canada. The same applies to insects which attack potatoes, wheat or any growing crop. We investigate these matters so that the food of the human being may be preserved, and so that our farmers may be in a position to produce to better advantage.

In so far as animals are concerned, may I say that votes having to do with the health of animals are made because of their effect upon the health of human beings. We attempt to destroy tuberculosis in animals because we know the bovine tubercular germ can be transferred to the human being. That, again, is one of the chief reasons why we attack Bang's disease. Another reason is that Bang's disease affects the production of the animal. One could go right through the whole of the work done by the department in connection with diseases in live stock and cereals and one would find that all of that work is related to the human being, either because we are producing something by which the human being is fed or because the disease may have an effect upon his health. I believe it is unnecessary to dwell further upon this matter, more than to say that the work done in the Department of Agriculture is supplementary