

production of sugar beets. Would that come under the supervision of some of the experimental farms? I refer particularly to the proposal to make such experiments in the Qu'Appelle valley.

Mr. GARDINER: The only experiments we are carrying on with sugar beets are those I mentioned last night. They are intended to determine the production and sugar content of beets in different sections of the country, and they are still going on. The suggestion has been made by the Saskatchewan department of agriculture that they intend to carry on experiments in connection with the growth of sugar beets in the Qu'Appelle valley, but that is not under this department.

Mr. HATFIELD: What is the cost of operating the farm at Fredericton?

Mr. GARDINER: A year ago it was \$52,325, and this year it is \$49,545.

Mr. HATFIELD: What is the revenue?

Mr. GARDINER: About \$9,000.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Can the minister make a statement with regard to the forestry engineers and assistants? Some \$12,000 odd has been spent in wages.

Mr. GARDINER: These are forestry engineers at Indian Head and Saskatoon respectively.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Should they not be under the forestry department? On page 118 of the estimates there is a list of forestry engineers, and under youth training there is an allotment of \$448,000 for that work.

Mr. GARDINER: The forestry work done under the Department of Mines and Resources is an entirely different type of work. It has to do with the protection of forests in areas where forests grow naturally. Forestry under the Department of Agriculture consists in the management of nurseries for the production of trees for distribution among farmers.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: In view of the decision announced by the minister last evening, that the experimental farm at Rosthern will be closed down in spite of the strong opposition voiced not only by the city of Saskatoon but also by the Prince Albert agricultural society and board of trade, I think the committee should know how that experimental farm will be disposed of. Last evening the minister indicated that some plans were being considered, but he did not advise the committee of the nature of these tentative plans, nor did he say whether it is intended by the department to dispose of this farm to

private interests. A strong rumour is going round that such disposal is being contemplated. The amount of investment in the farm is something like \$119,000, I am informed, and naturally those who will be directly affected by the closing down of the farm wish to be assured that it will not be disposed of to private interests. They wish to know what disposition will be made of it.

The minister says that the main reason why this and other farms are being closed down is to retain the money for war purposes, and with that there can be no disagreement. But it is difficult to understand why, at a time when economy is being practised for reasons of the war, it should have been necessary this year to increase the scientific staff of the central experimental farm at Ottawa to the extent of thirteen extra scientists with salaries of from \$2,500 to \$3,400 a year each. One would have thought that at a time like this, when money is needed for war purposes, if the experimental farm at Ottawa was able to carry on in the past year with the staff it had, it would not have been necessary to add so many scientists, particularly in view of the minister's statement that experimental station work will be considerably reduced during the present year and expenditures cut down accordingly. Will the minister say why these thirteen extra scientists are being appointed at this time, when reductions should be made, especially when no reason has been given for this increase?

Mr. GARDINER: Last evening I gave the reason for the increases. They are found in the figure that was dealt with last evening; it showed a difference of some \$39,000. That amount is simply taken out of one list and put in another. It is found in one set of figures under "wages"; it is found in another under "salaries": The difference between the two is the next figure; I do not have it before me at the moment. But the point raised with regard to the central experimental farm involves part of that reclassification. There are not eleven more persons employed—I think the figure is eleven, an increase from 91 to 102.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: The minister refers to agricultural scientists?

Mr. GARDINER: I am speaking here of the whole classification at the central experimental farm. The numbers are not increased, but there is a reclassification right through the service resulting in that number more, who were employed previously on wages, being placed in the civil service.

The other point relates to the experimental farm at Rosthern. The present intention is to close that farm, as I indicated last night.