

would be well to know whether the disease is conveyed in the seed.

Mr. TOLMIE: The European corn borer is a dangerous parasite and one that has created considerable alarm in the United States. We are alive to its importance, and I can assure my hon. friend that a staff is kept combatting it during the season. As regards its treatment, we advise cutting the crop as low as possible, cleaning up all debris and burning it, and then ploughing the land. The disease is not conveyed by the corn seed once it has been shelled, but there is a danger in shipping unshelled corn from affected districts. That, however, is prevented by our officers. We have been studying the question with care, and purpose giving it still closer study during the coming summer.

Mr. McDERMAND: I understand that those counties under quarantine are not allowed to ship seed at the present time. Will that regulation be continued?

Mr. TOLMIE: They are not allowed to ship seed on the cob. Future quarantines, I may say, will be enforced so long as we think the precaution necessary, that is to say, as developments occur.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am much obliged to the minister for the exhaustive information he has given us concerning the way in which he is battling with the farmers' enemies in the shape of insects. We have in Nova Scotia, and particularly in the part of the province from which I come, one enemy to which I shall now refer. There may be a special name for it in scientific nomenclature, but it is vulgarly known as the potato bug. It is a very destructive insect, and causes considerable damage. Is any progress being made towards exterminating this particularly troublesome pest, which largely destroys a splendid article of food? I know we have in Nova Scotia, under the provincial department of Agriculture, possibly with some assistance from the Dominion Government, demonstrators who go through the country showing the farmers how things can be done in various ways to improve agriculture; but I am not aware that they have been demonstrating any very effective means of wiping out this enemy of the farmer. When a man is advised to settle on the land in our part of the country he replies that he sees no good in going on the farm because, when he plants cabbages, or potatoes, these insects destroy them, rendering much hard labour absolutely futile, and that it is therefore

[Mr. McDermand.]

not inviting to take up land. Now, we certainly want every man we can get to go on the farm, and we should put every means at his disposal to overcome these pests. I want to know especially what is being done to get rid of this potato bug. I understand that the germ stays in the soil from year to year, and perhaps some 5 p.m. method might be found—I do not know whether any has been devised so far—of treating the soil in order to kill the germ. Perhaps the minister will inform the committee on this point.

Mr. TOLMIE: We give demonstrations in the use of both liquid and dust sprays to overcome fungoid diseases in potatoes, of which there are about half a dozen, and among other pests we encounter the potato bug. The treatment costs about a dollar or a little more per acre, including labour and material. What is known as the potato spraying machine is used; it covers several rows at a time. This particular pest cannot be controlled, so far as I know, by any treatment of the soil, but the other remedies I have mentioned, while not costly, are, I think, highly efficient.

Mr. DECHENE: The member for Cape Breton (Mr. McKENZIE), raised an interesting question in his reference to the potato bug, and I am sure the minister is aware of another potato disease, which is known in French as "la glande noire". Last fall, in our part of Quebec, a large portion of the potato crop was lost as a result of this plague. Perhaps the minister will inform us what is being done by the Government in the way of co-operation with the provincial department of Agriculture in order to overcome, or at all events, to restrict, as far as possible, this harmful disease. Sometimes one takes up a potato that looks perfect, but on cutting it one finds several black rings in it. A farmer may store in the fall a crop of potatoes that have every appearance of soundness, but in a few months the whole thing begins to rot, and by January or February there is little of the crop left. If this plague is not checked, in Quebec and in other provinces as well, in a few years' time our potato output will be seriously diminished. I suppose the minister is aware of this trouble and if anything is being done by his department in the matter, I should like to have an assurance from him to that effect.

Mr. TOLMIE: In connection with these diseases, I may inform my hon. friend that we issue information from time to time. Furthermore, we have inspectors in the