

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Fixter has it in charge.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is the farm foreman, but I think it is under the oversight of Prof. Fletcher; at least, it was; I cannot say how it is at the present time. Suppose we were to take the statement of the hon. Minister that this branch is in charge of the farm foreman. Now, I do not think that that is paying as much attention to bee-keeping as might be done with advantage to the Canadian Experimental Farm. I know that this is a matter which the bee-keepers all through the country are exceedingly anxious about. I may say that the hon. Minister (Mr. Fisher) will remember that this has been called to his attention a number of times, not only in the press representing that branch of agriculture, but by bee-keepers all over the country. I think that last year the hon. gentleman gave us somewhat of a promise, or shadow of a promise, that he would do something in this direction, and I hope that this time he will be able to give us the promise that something definite will be done. The Government are fairly liberal, I think, in dealing with the public service generally and with public money, and I do not think they should refuse to accede to the wishes of the people representing an important, even though relatively small, branch of agriculture, which has its representatives in almost every province of the Dominion, and which contributes a great deal to the income of the farmers of Canada. I cannot speak too strongly upon that point, because I know how thoroughly alive the bee-keepers are to the importance of having some attention paid to their industry, so as to secure for them the benefit of experiments, as has been done in dairying and other branches of agriculture that have received attention at the farm.

As to the questions of policy, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher), it will please the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to know, is pursuing the same policy as the previous Government. He has not found time to disturb it. That being the case, I fancy there is very little for us to criticise in the hon. gentleman's vote or the manner in which he is carrying on the farm. I would like to ask whether he intends to have the experiment stations in various parts of the country. In another place, I believe, there was a discussion on this point, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) expressed a favourable opinion upon that work.

I must say that I differ with some gentlemen who spoke on that point, and I would support the hon. gentleman if he would ask for a vote, small in the beginning, but growing larger, for the purpose of doing experimental work in connection with the various farms in the several provinces of the Dominion. I see the Minister of Finance smiles, he always smiles when money is asked for, but he smiles with an approving

smile when the Minister of Public Works asks for money. Money has been spent by the Minister of Public Works in building fences and greenhouses that might have been more wisely spent by the Minister of Agriculture in making experiments for the people who are really the wealth producers, or at least the great portion of them, in the Dominion of Canada. I think if the hon. gentleman will take up that work he will find that the farmers would take a deep interest in it, and he would be performing for almost every section of the country what he is attempting here, I believe, with very fair success in other branches. I do not see any reason, with an expenditure of 40 millions—or will it be when we hear the total, 42 millions, the Minister of Finance might be able to tell us—I do not see any reason why a few thousand could not be spared from the Estimates of the Minister of Public Works to make a few experiments for the farmers of Canada in connection with the illustration stations. I know the Minister of Finance is generous, I am sure the Minister of Public Works is generous where public works are constructed, and I would also ask him to be generous to the farmers of Canada who, notwithstanding any opinion that may be expressed as to the wisdom of this course, I believe are fully in accord with the action of the past Government and of the present Government in making experiments upon as wide a scale as possible for the advancement of agriculture. There are other points to which the hon. gentleman has referred which I regret equally with him, particularly the disease which broke out among the herds at the Central Experimental Farm. I am glad that he found no disease in the eastern provinces; but I hope that will not be taken as an excuse, as some hon. gentlemen has suggested, for moving the whole experimental farm to the eastern provinces. May I ask the Minister of Agriculture to give me an answer upon these two points: As to the apiary, and as to the illustration stations. Then I may ask him as to how many animals he purchased for the farm at Nappan?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In answer to the hon. gentleman, first, about an apiarist at the Experimental Farm, I may say frankly that I have not yet reached the point where I feel that I can make such an appointment. As the hon. gentleman knows, there is a fixed vote for carrying on the Experimental Farm, and before I am able to add any particular expenditures such as he has alluded to, I should have to provide for cutting off something else.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Better increase the vote.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The vote is the same as it has been. I hope in the course of this season to be able to cut off a considerable amount of expendi-

Mr. MONTAGUE.