

*Supply—Agriculture*

**Mr. Harkness:** Of course we are doing a lot in the way of frozen fruits and vegetables. We are freezing strawberries in Canada, and I believe we are doing that in the Fraser valley. But as regards frozen strawberries at the present time from the United States, they might well be strawberries growing now in some of the more southerly states. The ones imported from Holland I would think must be ones carried over from last year. But in any event we do freeze strawberries in this country, and quite a lot of our consumption of frozen strawberries, I think, are of our own production.

**Mr. Winch:** Try and buy some in Ottawa.

**Mr. Harkness:** It may be that the ones frozen last year have run out by this time, I do not know. But in any event, as I said last week in answer to the hon. member, I think in connection with pork luncheon meat, you have to expect some imports of quite a few of these commodities. You cannot expect to keep out all the products of other countries if we are to carry on any sort of reasonable freedom of trade at all.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Chairman, there is one specific point I wish to deal with and to ask the minister about at this time. I should say, first, that the minister was very kind to write to me earlier in the year indicating that there were to be some personnel changes and transfers in the experimental farm at Smithers, that some of the people were going to be transferred to Prince George. Since that time I have received a number of communications, and more recently a telegram, from people in Smithers who have some misapprehensions about the future of the experimental farm there, and I wonder if the minister would be kind enough to give the committee at this time an indication of what is in store for the experimental farm at Smithers, whether it will be retained as it is at the moment, and with respect to the staff transfers, how many are to be transferred, where they are to be transferred to, what classification or category they would fall into, and things of that nature. Would he give a general indication of the future prospects for the experimental farm at Smithers, because of the thoughts and fears expressed there to the effect that there is an impending closure of that particular farm?

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Chairman, the situation at Smithers is that we have transferred from there two research officers and they are now going to be stationed at the farm at Prince George, not very far away. The impression seems to have become current in some quarters out there that this farm will be

closed down and done away with. This is incorrect. I have written to that effect to the Smithers board of trade and some other organizations there who seemed to have that idea and who were writing or wiring me in connection with the matter.

The farm will be continued. The two research officers who were there have been moved to Prince George where their high degree of training can be used much more effectively and efficiently to the benefit of agriculture in the area and in Canada generally than it could with the two of them sitting there more or less isolated from any larger and more specialized research institution.

**Mr. Howard:** Those will be pleasant words to people in Smithers, that the plant there is to be continued. I wonder if the minister could indicate whether there are any other contemplated staff transfers or reductions in staff at that experimental farm, and at the same time indicate what is the present staff strength at that particular farm.

**Mr. Harkness:** I am just attempting to find what the present strength of the farm is; it has to be looked up in one of these big books here and will take a minute or two. But in any case there is no intention at the present time to reduce the strength of the personnel at the farm any further. The exact work which will be carried on by the farm is under study at the present time and no final determination has been made as to what type of work will be chiefly emphasized at the farm. I now have the number of employees; there are 22 employees there.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Will the minister say a brief word about the experimental station in Woodslee established two years ago in the corn centre of Canada. As the hon. gentleman knows, Essex county is responsible, along with Kent, for 65 per cent of the corn produced in Canada and it would be interesting to know what assessment the minister places on an institution which I think is doing very outstanding work.

**Mr. Harkness:** As the hon. gentleman knows, the Woodslee station is a substation of the Harrow experimental and research set-up. In a minute I will have the general line-up in connection with what is carried on at Woodslee. The following studies are being made, in particular, at the Woodslee substation.

Evaluation of cropping systems for the improvement of physical condition and productivity of clay soil.

Evaluation of fertilizing materials and methods of applying them in the improvement of crop yields.