

is being done again this year. We would like to have this matter looked after very sharply. Our buyers who are buying high-priced certified seed, getting it inspected and certified, and who have worked up a good trade for this in the southern states, where we have a permanent market, do not want potatoes sold as seed that are not certified and that may possibly have disease. There are certain diseases, the minister says, you must find when the potato is growing, you cannot find them in the bin. You can find some diseases in the bin, but very few. Potatoes of this class are shipped to the people to whom we are selling, and the man who buys them is led to believe that the stock is government certified stock when it is not. The certificate reads, "Canadian Certified Seed Potatoes" but it does not say who certified them. The people plant these potatoes and they may grow a diseased crop. In that case they will say that the Canadian certification is no good. This will discredit the whole thing from start to finish; it will nullify the work of the department in every particular. This is something that we who are really getting our potatoes certified want to put a stop to. It is ruining our seed trade. We have a steady market there, but this kind of thing will very readily undermine it and give us a very bad reputation.

Mr. HANSON: The hon. gentleman (Mr. Caldwell) has made a very serious charge against the potato dealers of New Brunswick. He has said either too much or too little. I am not sure which. I never heard of any such charges or of any such *modus operandi* on the part of dealers—and they are practically all in his own county—during the past two seasons when certified seed potatoes have been grown in New Brunswick. I want to call attention to this fact so that it will be heard down in New Brunswick by some of the hon. gentleman's own friends in the seed potato business and in the potato business generally.

Mr. CALDWELL: Does my hon. friend deny that this thing has been going on?

Mr. HANSON: I never heard of it before.

Mr. CALDWELL: I can prove it.

Mr. HANSON: You may be called upon to prove it by some of your own friends down in that community.

Mr. CALDWELL: I am perfectly ready and willing to do so.

Mr. HANSON: All right. I am making these remarks so that the matter may be emphasized and attention called to it in the community that is interested. What I really

[Mr. Caldwell.]

rose for was to ask the minister this: In view of the fact that the potato business is such an important business in New Brunswick, why is it that the position of plant pathologist at Fredericton has been vacant for a year or more, at all events ever since the resignation of Mr. Cunningham? The work is being done by a young man who is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick, and although he is qualified for the position I understand that the department has refused to accept his services.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend has raised a very important question. The salaries of these technical men are much too low; in fact they are so small that when the positions are advertised desirable persons are not attracted to them. Engineers and a great many other services are classified very much higher than technical men of this description. The result is that you get applications for the higher salaried positions and you do not get them for the lower ones. That did not start recently; it started away back when these men were taking their college courses and it was a factor in inducing them to choose some more remunerative vocation. To-day we have a number of positions such as my hon. friend has described and we have practically no applications for them. The person to whom my hon. friend particularly refers was not eligible for the position.

Mr. HANSON: I cannot agree with that, because I know the circumstances. When the position became vacant by the resignation of Mr. Cunningham and was advertised by the Civil Service Commission I received a circular in connection with it and I immediately sent it to the young man in question. He is the man who has been doing the work. He acted first as assistant to Mr. Cunningham for a number of years; he has grown up in the business, and if there is any merit in the principle of promotion in the Civil Service, here is a case where that principle should be invoked. I am informed that he applied for the position but that the department refused to accept him, although he has continued to do the work. He is a New Brunswick boy—it is not necessary to send a man in from Ontario or from the United States. A man was sent in from the United States; he looked the situation over and apparently did not like the climate or the society, because he did not stay. I do not know who brought him there. I do suggest to the minister that he give that position to the young man now doing the work, who knows the ground, who is thoroughly qualified professionally and technically and who, I believe, would make a first-class official.