

night and that many of us perhaps overlooked, was in connection with it—is in reference to pasture, forage crops, etc. Even in British Columbia, which we think of as having almost unlimited pasture, the carrying power of the ranges has decreased to one-fourth, and in many places, more than that. In some sections it will take four acres now to carry as many head of cattle as one acre would have done some years ago. This year, in cooperation with the British Columbia government, we have sent two men through the range lands in that province to make a special study of grass conditions, and the report they have made has been anything but satisfactory in regard to the rangeman's economic condition. The bunch grass on which they have relied so much for their pasture cattle is practically disappearing. In eastern Canada, in the old native pastures, I believe it takes about four to six acres now to carry as many head of cattle as one acre carried a number of years ago. Speaking of the cost of production, we all admit that the cheapest feed for the production of milk is pasture and we believe that any reasonable expense we may make towards the improving of pasturage conditions will be more than warranted. One of the serious problems in the prairie provinces at the present time is that of pasture and forage crops to prevent drifting. This year the drifting has been so great that those of us who believed shelter belts and so on were the solution for it are now undecided on that point. In fact, this year it was proven that they would not prevent drifting. The western farmers, due to the price of wheat and other grains during the past few years has not been attempting to keep a great deal of live stock, even in districts where they might do so, or to pay attention to forage crops. The farmer in the west has been paying attention particularly to the raising of wheat—and I say this without criticizing them, because they turned their attention to that method of farming which they believed would give them the greatest crop—but the result has been, by taking all the fibre and strength out of the land, to create as nearly as possible the ideal condition of the desert. One thing we must concentrate on in the west, therefore, is to get the best authorities we can to work on the question of pasturage. When I came here first, I had in mind to carry on this work the official who had held the position of agrostologist. The man who had been in charge left in 1929 to go to Winnipeg, and the position had not been filled. We believed the matter was of such importance to the farmers that we could not afford to take any but

the very best man we could get. There was no doubt that the best man was Professor Kirk, of the university of Saskatchewan, at Saskatoon. He is one of the three best men in that work on the American continent, and I think he is easily recognized as the best man in the Dominion of Canada. But I was up against this difficulty. Professor Kirk is a personal friend of mine—probably all the professors at the university of Saskatchewan are friends of mine; I knew how invaluable he was to the university, and I did not want to bring in his name until I was sure that the professors and the university staff felt that he was needed more for the whole Dominion than he was needed at the university. They agreed, and Professor Kirk was very anxious to come because of the greater opportunity of the work here. Therefore, in order to pay him anything like he was worth, it was necessary to put through that estimate on Saturday night, by which he is given \$5,000, which is more than men are receiving who are occupying similar positions in the experimental farms branch. He is getting more than that at the university of Saskatchewan at the present time, but he was willing to come here, even at a lower salary than he is now receiving, for the good that he could do. It is only fair that I should say that the men in the experimental farms department who are the heads of branches were so anxious to get Professor Kirk here that they had no objection to his receiving more salary than they are receiving. The director of the experimental farms gets only \$5,000 a year, together with a house. They were particularly anxious to have Professor Kirk, and I am sure that everyone will realize, especially with conditions as they are in the west and every where, that no wiser step could have been taken than to get a man of the type of Professor Kirk, who is himself a true scientist and will be a worthy co-worker with the men we have in the various branches of the experimental farms.

Mr. VALLANCE: I wish to thank the minister for acceding to my request. I will reserve any comment or criticism I may have of the policy as outlined by the minister because I realize that the house wishes to prorogue, and as well it will give me a little more time. But when the house next meets I hope to be able to offer some suggestions regarding the minister's policy.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): The hon. member for Compton (Mr. Gobeil) has had something to say with regard to the health of animals branch. I was prepared to have something to say on that, but I shall be very brief. I would like an explanation from the minister of the reduction of \$300,000 in this