

Mr. BRADETTE: Would the minister advise the committee how the vote for the Kapuskasing experimental farm this year compares with the vote last year?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): It is practically the same amount, \$40,000 to \$41,000.

Mr. BRADETTE: I am quite free to criticize the parsimony of this government in that regard because when I sat on the government side I found it necessary to criticize the former government for not devoting a larger amount of money to that farm. We in northern Ontario received no benefit from the wheat bonus scheme because we cannot produce wheat, and the stabilization fund created under this budget in order to aid the exporter of farm products will not help us either. The only compensation we have in our part of the country is the Kapuskasing experimental farm, which formerly sold the settlers pedigreed stock and poultry, as well as the produce of the farm, practically at cost prices. Ever since I have been in this house I have had to criticize the Department of Agriculture for not giving that farm the amount of money it should receive, having regard to the large territory it serves and the great benefit it is to the people there.

The manager of that farm is well known to every settler in northern Ontario; I believe he is a personal friend of the Minister of Labour, and there is no doubt that he is the proper man in the proper place. I know he has always found it difficult to make both ends meet. When the big power plant and the Spruce Falls paper plant were being constructed some settlers resented the fact that the horses from the experimental farm were used in competition with the horses of the settlers, but on making inquiry I found that the management of the farm had to find some employment for those horses in order to balance the yearly budget. I maintain that this is not the way to deal with an institution of that kind. Having in mind the work that is being done in placing a large number of families back on the land in our section of the country; having in mind also the fact that most of our settlers find it impossible to go a long distance in order to obtain pedigreed stock, I believe the government should continue the practice of raising cattle on the Kapuskasing experimental farm. I understand that two years ago those in charge of the work of that farm had to curtail that work through lack of funds, and I plead with the Minister of Agriculture to have it undertaken again. Surely the federal treasury should find it

[Mr. Vallance.]

possible to look after the requirements of our fine agricultural population in northern Ontario.

As I said a moment ago, Mr. Chairman, the legislation that has been brought forward in this parliament during the last three years may have proved beneficial to other parts of the country. We do not quarrel with that; we are satisfied that \$8,000,000 or \$9,000,000 should be given the wheat growers of the west, and we are satisfied that the primary producers of eastern Canada as well as of the prairie provinces should benefit to the extent of millions of dollars under this stabilization scheme. But I could easily prove that that will not be worth anything to us, because we are not on an export basis. Surely the Department of Agriculture could find it possible not only to maintain the present activities of the Kapuskasing experimental farm but to enlarge them considerably. It would be money well spent. Most of our settlers are not yet farmers and they need pedigreed stock to start new herds, but they cannot afford to come down here and bring them back and pay travelling expenses. In the past, and I give the government credit for this, the experimental farm at Kapuskasing has found it possible to sell at cost price poultry, chickens and hogs, and that has been very beneficial to our section of the country, but under this vote that farm will find it absolutely impossible to continue those activities. I hope the minister will take my plea into serious consideration and find it possible to increase the vote on account of the situation with which we are faced in that part of the country.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): With reference to the hiring of horses in the lumber camps, that has not been done in the last two years. So far as reducing the herd of cattle is concerned, as the pure bred stock increased in numbers the grade cattle were disposed of. We are in a position so far as live stock is concerned to give the same service as we have given in the past. I am sure that those in charge of the experimental farm will appreciate this commendation of the work they are doing, especially of the distribution of the best blood lines of live stock to the settlers at cost price.

Mr. McINTOSH: May I remind the minister of two angles of the problem which he said he would try to work out in the area of country which I described lying west of Meadow lake and northwest of the end of steel between North Battleford and Edmonton. The minister was kind enough to say that he would investigate the possibilities of that area