

over Canada it would not be possible to have them every seventy-five or even one hundred miles.

Mr. TUCKER: I should like to make a few remarks with regard to something that is regarded as almost a tragedy in the constituency I have the honour to represent in this house, something which is regarded as quite a setback to agriculture in a large part of northern Saskatchewan. I am informed that it is proposed to close the long established experimental station at Rosthern. This station was opened in 1909 by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is situated in the centre of one of the finest farming districts in Saskatchewan. Doctor Seagar Wheeler lives within about five miles of that station, and it will be remembered that Doctor Wheeler was three times wheat king of the world, something never accomplished by any other person. As a matter of fact, since that station has been in operation, it has had a tremendous influence in the district which it serves, which includes not only the constituency of Rosthern but also North Battleford, The Battlefords and the territory tributary to Saskatoon, together with a great part of the constituency of Prince Albert, which is represented in this house by the Prime Minister. This district is settled to a large extent by people from continental Europe, and the service performed by that station in teaching these people the best methods of Canadian farming can never be measured by officials here in Ottawa.

I am told that certain experiments which have been carried on in the past have been brought to a conclusion, and that therefore there is no further reason for keeping open that station. I think everyone in this committee will agree that where experimental stations fall down is in not getting the benefit of their experiments across to the people, rather than in the experiments that are carried on. It would be better to get half the information obtained across to the people at large than to carry on experiments twice as important and get very little across to the people.

So, Mr. Chairman, when you have a long established experimental station in the middle of a district which needs and uses the advice and assistance of the officials of that station, it seems to me a retrograde and terrible step for any government to close that station just for the sake of saving \$10,000 or less. The station has been in existence for thirty-one years, and each year more and more people come to it to get advice, particularly as to the best methods of improving their live stock. I live within a mile of the Rosthern station, and each year I have seen more and more people going there to get advice and

assistance with regard to improving their farming methods. In that district there has been a tendency to change from grain farming to mixed farming, and the officials have given most valuable advice to the farmers with regard to that trend. For instance, recently a brooder house was set up to show how, at small expense, pigs could be farrowed in the height of winter without risk, in order that they might be marketed to greater advantage. I venture to say that since that building has been established, at least a thousand farmers have visited and examined it, and who can say in dollars and cents what value that has been to the whole district?

I look at the estimates and find an item of some \$598,000 for the central experimental farm at Ottawa. When I compare that sum with the small amount that would keep the Rosthern station open; when I consider that almost as many real farmers visit the Rosthern station as probably visit the Ottawa experimental farm, I cannot keep silent in this committee. We have a deputy minister in another department which I will not mention now, drawing \$10,000 a year and doing no work to speak of at all. When I think of that and realize that in order to save this amount of money we are closing a station serving hundreds of farmers in a large section of a great province such as Saskatchewan, a station that gives work to perhaps thirty people who need it badly, looking after the shrubs, gardens and so on, people who make perhaps \$200 during the summer by hard work; when I see them about to be thrown out of work and remember a deputy minister in one of our government departments as already indicated, getting the salary I mentioned, I cannot keep silent in this committee. I must rise and say that I do not approve any such policy. That station has been teaching good Canadian farming methods to hundreds of farmers, who have come from Prince Albert, from North Battleford, from Melfort and from over a hundred miles around, in order to get the benefit of the advice of the officials stationed there. Year after year they receive the advantage of the experiments carried on at that station; it is doing better and better work in that way all the time, and I am informed that on a bare carrying basis, taking into account the revenue obtained, that station probably could be operated for less than \$10,000 a year.

Then there is the question of foundation live stock. There has been built up on that farm probably one of the finest herds of Holstein cattle in Canada. There has been built up also a fine herd of Yorkshire hogs. I have seen people come there from all over