

drawers and steel cabinets for the national collection and divisional work in the collection of insects. If my hon. friend knows of any better way of disposing of these little creatures I shall be glad to have his suggestions.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: How much is to be spent on the purchase of these receptacles for new insects?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That will depend on the invasions to which we are subjected during the year.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is all very well, but I understand that this vote is for the purposes of inside work. How much of this vote is for receptacles?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It is very hard to divide the amount any more minutely than I have done, except to say that a certain amount of microscopic work is to be carried out.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My hon. friend seems determined to give me no information at all. I am asking how this \$5,000 is made up. So far he has indicated that there are two items, first, the purchase of trays in which the insects are put, and, secondly, microscopical plant or instruments. If he cannot tell us how much he intends to spend on receptacles, will he tell us how much he intends to spend on microscopes?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This work is fluctuating in its character and we have to be prepared for contingencies. We cannot tell anything more about the insect invasions than we can about the crop. A warm, early spring usually brings about an invasion of grasshoppers, for instance, especially if there is no frost to destroy the eggs or the young midges. So I cannot say exactly how much we will spend, though I can give a rough estimate if that is desired.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I just want to say a word or two on the general policy. I have always, in office and out of office, sought to reduce to the minimum scientific work of this character inside—what one might call more or less ornamental work. I have no objection to outside work at all, and I also acknowledge that a certain amount of inside work is essential, but I do think it is overdone—and the redundancy is not confined to the Department of Agriculture; there is some in other departments as well. But I have always thought that the enthusiasm of officials, the desire to extend the sphere of their own work, results in the creating of elaborate scientific departments here, there

[Mr. Motherwell.]

and everywhere, and great collections of dead bugs instead of killing the live ones. Besides, we cannot in this country hope to rival the other big scientific institutions in this matter. We will get on far faster by availing ourselves of the scientific results achieved by great laboratories to the south of us than by seeking to plant in our own country pale, weak imitations of them. It seems to me that if we take advantage of the scientific results achieved in the big state institutions of the United States—and we get it all; it cannot possibly be kept from us—we can save a lot of money here at home and at the same time seek to get practical results in our own field. It is better to spend the money that way than in too much employment of scientific men in small laboratories in Canada.

Mr. GOULD: I was not so much interested in the \$5,000 item which provided coffins for the dead bugs, although they would seem to be rather expensive. I wish to make one comment, however, with regard to the \$11,000 item in connection with distribution of literature. I myself have been in receipt of many pamphlets from the Entomological department which did not particularly apply to the district in which I live. For instance, it was not particularly interesting, nor did I have time to study up, what might be the matter with the peach crop in Niagara peninsula. If the department is advised to send out pamphlets dealing only with matters indigenous to the parts of the country to which they go, I think we could save a lot of money. Is that item of \$11,000 a smaller amount than was used for the same purpose last year?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes, and the same applies to the next vote. Replying to my right hon. friend's (Mr. Meighen) criticism regarding the tendency of the departments to extend, I may say that that is why we are trying to reduce these appropriations—to counteract that tendency. He further suggests that instead of taking care of the dead bugs we should be killing the live ones. Well, they have to be alive first; we have to kill the live ones to get the dead ones. These specimens are caught alive, killed and mounted. Here is the subdivision of the item of \$5,880 that my hon. friend (Sir Henry Drayton) asked for: Cameras, \$300; microscopes, \$700 to \$800; laboratory supplies, \$1,000; steel cases, about \$3,500. That is as close as we can get to the details. As I said before, the use to which this money is put in each subdivision will depend wholly on the nature of the conditions next summer, and those we cannot anticipate.