

Supply—Agriculture

I should be able to get the information for which I asked, it is when the estimates for this particular item are before us. The suggestion by the minister that I should put a question on the order paper is, I think, the most ridiculous and most contemptuous of parliament that I have heard him make. He should be ashamed to make such a suggestion.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I asked this question the day before yesterday. The minister has had forty-eight hours in which to get this information. He comes here and, practically speaking, by the manner in which he has been talking and the lack of information we have received, has admitted he does not know what the answer is. He has failed to give the information and then he tells me to put the question on the order paper. Before this item is passed I think the minister should give a detailed breakdown of the expenditures without any further delay.

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Chairman, I am accustomed to hearing that kind of speech made by the hon. member for Calgary East. He has been making them now for about four or five years. He never comes here with any information to back up any statement he makes, but merely makes general statements.

Mr. Harkness: Look at *Hansard* for the last four years, and you will see something different.

Mr. Gardiner: The question asked by the hon. member for Calgary East was as to the amount spent on the buildings for scientific services at Lethbridge, Alberta. The answer to that question, the same answer he would get if he were to put it on the order paper, is given in the figures I have supplied to him. This is the money actually expended. After he gets those figures, he says "Well, what was spent this year?" I informed him of our estimate of what it will cost for the work done this year, which amounts to \$117,000 in addition to those figures. At the moment no one can tell him to the exact cent what that cost is going to be. The estimated cost is \$117,000.

Now, that is the total cost of these buildings, and that is the information for which he asked. What I am going to say now is that, even if I were to say I will let the item stand and bring it down again, I have no reason to believe the figure would be any different from the figure he has. If the hon. member can stand up in his place in this house and, on his responsibility as a member, say that those are not the figures, then I am quite prepared to try to obtain what he has proven to be the figures. Those are the figures as they are given to me by the only people in Canada, of whom I am aware, who have the figures.

[Mr. Harkness.]

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Chairman, I asked for the cost of these experimental buildings. As a result of a question asked a few moments ago by the member for Macleod, the minister admitted that part of the cost was for barns, for suites in which people live, for roads and drains and various other things along that line. I believe we should have a detailed breakdown.

Item agreed to.

Experimental farms service—

15. Branch farms and stations and illustration stations, \$3,819,403.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): I believe it was the minister himself who said he was coming back to this item 15 about which I wanted to ask a question. Is the minister in a position at this time to tell us whether any of this money has been spent in Newfoundland this summer or whether he proposes to spend any this year?

Mr. Gardiner: There is nothing provided in this vote for expenditure in Newfoundland. There is, however, a supplementary which comes up later. At the moment I am not prepared to say whether there is anything in that for agriculture. There may not be, but when we are dealing with the supplementary I shall be in a position to state whether there is or not. I have written to the premier and I discussed the matter with him when he was here a few days ago. He has been requested to advise me as to the needs of the new province of Newfoundland as soon as he returns to St. John's. I have suggested that any requests for expenditures will be investigated in order to put the province in relationship with the other provinces and put us in a position to proceed with that just as early as possible.

Mr. McLure: With regard to vote 15, is it the intention of the Department of Agriculture to eliminate these illustration farms throughout the province of Prince Edward Island? My reason for mentioning this is that there was a very fine illustration farm at South Rustico in Queens county. I understand that this is being closed. Probably the department knows something about it. I might say it was an excellent station run by Mr. John C. Clark. It was as important to the farmers in that locality as the central station, because a great deal of information was received from this farm. I should like to know what is being spent on it and whether it is being closed, because there was not enough money being spent on that station.

Mr. Gardiner: To answer the first part of the question, there has been no change in policy which would result in the closing of