

maritime provinces. It seemed to me there was abundant opportunity to establish a good dairy farm there. As the hon. ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague) knows, there is at Nappan a dairy station as well as a farm. We are running a creamery there under Prof. Robertson as dairy commissioner. The stock on the farm was not dairy stock. It was a mixed lot of animals, and some of them had been detained beyond their usefulness and service. I therefore directed that a large number should be immediately disposed of, and I purchased a considerable number of first-class animals, and sent them down to replace the other stock. Besides, I have given directions that on that farm the chief attention and work of the farm should be devoted to dairying. With the little acquaintance I have had with the maritime provinces, especially with the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which I know a little better than I know the province of New Brunswick, I have been convinced that there is opportunity for great dairy development there. I found that in these provinces the attention of the people was being turned to stock and stock-keeping. While not wishing in any way to hamper the development of beef-raising and making in these provinces, I perceived, as I thought, that stock-raising had been, perhaps, a little more advanced than the dairying had been, and I thought that if it was possible to establish a good model farm at Nappan, it would perhaps be the best thing that could be done for the farmers of the maritime provinces. That has been going on, and, I trust, under the management of Mr. Robertson, whom I sent down to take charge of the farm, it will be carried on successfully. Mr. Robertson having been for years a well known expert in dairying and keeping dairy stock. As regards the farms in the west, I may say that there is practically no change. I have not, since coming into office, been able to visit the western farms. It was my good fortune, during last Parliament, when I was not in the House, to make a trip to the west, and I took occasion, being interested in these matters, to visit these farms. But since coming into office, I have not found time to make a trip to the west. Following conversations I have had with the managers of the farms, some slight changes have been made, but the work has been going on largely on the lines on which it was previously carried on.

At the Central Experimental Farm here, there are one or two things to which I had better allude. First, I would speak of the fact that last autumn tuberculosis was found in the herd at the farm. I regret to be obliged to state this fact. It was an unfortunate fact, but I thought that, having discovered it, it was best to face it, and take steps to rid the farm of that dread disease. We tested the animals there, and disposed immediately of those which

were found diseased, a large number, I regret to say. I also had the animals at the other farms tested, and found at Nappan no diseased animals, and, in the western farms, only two or three at each farm. Here there were no less than twenty-six diseased animals out of a total of fifty-five head, speaking from memory. Of course this immediately reduced the stock upon the farm, and up to the present I have not altogether replaced that stock. I had to buy a few animals, but not a very large number, up to the present time. I had the barns and stables thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, in such a way as, I believe, to prevent the building retaining any of the germs of the disease. The only other thing that it is necessary for me to detail at this stage is the fact that the horticulturist resigned his position, and I took occasion to promote Mr. William Macoun, who has been in charge of the forestry and of the arboretum there, to the position. I have not added to the staff, but in view of the vacancy thus created, I propose, as soon as I can find a suitable man, to appoint an agriculturist at the farm, who will take especial charge of the farm, the treatment of the soil and the stock, and make that an especial feature, and relieve Prof. Saunders, the director general of the farm, of some of the work he has had to do personally in that regard. I am satisfied that this will be an advantage to the farm, and I have the full concurrence and sympathy of Prof. Saunders himself in this action. I may say that, in consequence of the condition of the stock at Nappan, and the loss of stock here, I shall have a small amount in the Supplementary Estimates of this year for the purchase of stock. Otherwise the expenditure at the experimental farm has been kept within the bounds, and I trust that the work upon it has been carried on in as thoroughly an efficient manner as it has been in the past. Of course, if there are further questions that any hon. gentleman desires to ask me, I shall be only too glad to explain anything further in connection with the work.

Mr. MONTAGUE. In view of what the hon. Minister has said concerning the appointment of an agriculturist, I should like to ask whether he has yet considered seriously the appointment of a bee expert. I have previously called the attention of the hon. gentleman to what I regard as the importance of that subject. There can be no doubt, I think, of the value of sending out literature with regard to bee-keeping through the sections of the country which are adapted to this industry, as almost all our provinces are. I quite understand that the previous Government did establish an apiary branch there, but, I am sorry to say, they did it in a somewhat half-hearted fashion. They placed it in charge of Prof. Fletcher—