

and there is really no harm in it. But when it is all over I am sure the agriculturists both in this country and elsewhere would be very much worse off if there were no restrictions to control the spread of insect and fungus diseases. Apart from that, and a few other things, I have no criticism to make of my hon. friend's remarks. If there is any question that I have failed to clear up, I am afraid I have lost sight of it in trying to straighten the hon. gentleman out. All other matters are out of order and we shall come to them if my hon. friend will have some patience.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I wish to compliment the minister before he gets away from this subject.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Compliment, did you say?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes, surely. I criticised some of his actions and he thought that I should have given him credit instead. Well, I am going to give him all the credit to which he is entitled when we reach the item concerned, and I would point out to the minister that it is an altogether different matter from this. The adulteration of mill feeds is something entirely different from the regulations to which I have been referring.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Quite true, but it involves a restriction nevertheless, and that is what the people object to.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: It was not purely restrictive, for it ensured purity.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: So it did, but that is a restrictive regulation.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I have given the minister credit on many occasions for what he has done, but I simply wanted to point out to him that the mill feeds adulteration was altogether different from this.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Thank you.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Queens, P.E.I.): I might say a word in reference to the inspectors referred to by my hon. friend (Mr. Sutherland) and some other hon. members who have spoken this afternoon. I believe that the money expended on inspection under the Department of Agriculture is one of the most successful uses to which the public money can be put in this country. In eastern Canada especially, we have in the production of seed potatoes a splendid service, and the inspection gives a certification for our crop which we are able to sell in the United States where we have developed a market by introducing our pota-

atoes and have had them tried out by the experimental stations in that country. This is the only bright outlook in Maritime agriculture at the present time, apart from the ordinary line of dairy farming; and when hon. gentlemen suggest reductions by cutting out the inspection of potatoes it seems to me that they are proposing something that is altogether detrimental to the interests of the country. I was rather encouraged to hear my hon. friend from South Oxford say that some of the inspectors were not as highly qualified as they should be, because the hon. gentleman's colleague (Mr. Hanson) a few moments ago was urging that the qualifications were too high and should be reduced to a lower standard. I cannot agree with the hon. member for York-Sunbury in that regard, because I think it is of the utmost importance to keep up the qualifications of these inspectors. It is admitted by those who have studied the production of seed potatoes that the territory that lies east and south of the St. Lawrence river, east of the town of Levis in Quebec, in the Maritime provinces, and in part of the state of Maine, is the natural ground for the production of seed potatoes on the North American continent, and if properly safeguarded to keep out disease which is so prevalent in large potato growing areas we may hope in the future to develop the production of valuable seed potatoes. That would encourage the farmers in that locality to produce a crop that is indigenous to their country. But if we do not pay strict attention to the qualifications of our inspectors and see to it that a rigid inspection is maintained in order that disease may be kept down to the minimum, we shall not benefit to the extent that we should, in that part of the country. Let me give an illustration of what it means to us to keep down disease in our potato crop. During the past season in Prince Edward Island we have produced about three hundred carloads of seed potatoes, 93 per cent. of which, upon inspection, were certified. In New Brunswick the farmers have been growing potatoes on a larger scale for some years than in Prince Edward Island and consequently they have a little more disease in their fields and among their potato stock than we have. So that of the acreage that was entered for inspection in New Brunswick last year only 67 per cent. obtained certification. That will demonstrate the necessity for a rigid control of disease in potato crops, especially in connection with seed potatoes. Last year in Prince Edward Island there were six inspectors to handle the crop. Two or three of them were men who are employed the year round, the rest being engaged for a few months. This