

some national system of taking care of the giving of grants that may be applied all across the country.

Mr. BENNETT: In the meantime the grants will be the same as last year?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. BARBER: And the same with regard to regional fairs?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes; B and A are the two to which we give grants, and also the larger fairs like Toronto, the Royal and other winter fairs.

Mr. STIRLING: Those that were known as regional last year are being carried on in the same way?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. They are all in the class B fairs.

Item agreed to.

Experimental farms, including investigations concerning plant diseases, \$2,025,000.

Mr. COLDWELL: On the item "experimental farms" I asked the minister last year about the wages at experimental farms. He said he would look into the matter. Has anything been done for the married men on these farms?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes. There was an increase. I think the increase at Indian Head was about four cents an hour.

Item agreed to.

Health of animals, administration of Animal Contagious Diseases Act and Meat and Canned Foods Act, \$1,819,700.

Mr. GARDINER: The health of animals item was previously discussed and was just about ready to be carried. There were five or six pages of discussion of this earlier in the session.

Mr. TOLMIE: Just a minute. With regard to agriculture generally, I should like to ask the minister if there is any comparison between the wages paid to the very efficient men who comprise the Department of Agriculture and the salaries paid to other departmental officials. How does this department compare with the salaries paid in other departments? We have here a group of men who are carrying on a very important work. There is none more important anywhere in Canada than that which is being done by the Department of Agriculture, and it is done by men of very high qualifications. Our experimental farm system is one of the best to be found anywhere in the world. The splendid work which is being done by another official in rust

investigation will also be worth a great deal to the country. In my opinion the only way to maintain this department at a high standard is to pay good salaries and secure the very best men available. Has any such comparison been made?

Mr. GARDINER: That matter is at the present time before the civil service commission in connection with the reorganization of the department, and we are having a reclassification made throughout. I may say that we think that our service is the lowest paid in the government as compared with other departments, but that may not be agreed upon generally.

Mr. COLDWELL: I was glad to hear the minister say that. May I just draw to his attention that a number of graduates of our universities are working under this department at least partly, as student labourers, and have been doing so for some years. I draw that to his attention so that it may be considered.

Mr. TOLMIE: With regard to this particular health of animals branch, I think the minister and the Dominion of Canada are to be congratulated on the fact that the health of animals in this country, as far as contagious diseases are concerned, is better than that of any other country in the world. This fact has a great deal to do in giving our cattle and other live stock access to many of the markets to which we should not have had entry if conditions were otherwise. The health of animals branch has rendered great service in the past. It should be jealously guarded at the present time and maintained at a high standard. In this connection the minister mentioned a moment ago a reorganization. This high achievement on the part of our health of animals branch has been made possible because we have kept at the head of it men who thoroughly understand their business—Doctors Rutherford, McEachren, Torrance, and at the present time Doctor Hilton. They are doing good work, and I think it would be a very dangerous precedent to disturb them at all in their present activities. What they have done in connection with tuberculosis, hog cholera, and many other contagious diseases is pretty well known in the country.

I understand that a number of junior veterinary inspectors were taken on in 1935, and that their initial salary was reduced by about \$300 to \$1,620 per annum. This is a matter of some importance. If we are to get our best young men to take an interest in this profession and in the preservation of live stock, we must hold out some encouragement