

that the Minister of Agriculture will be most anxious that the experiment should be made in the North-West as soon as possible. Nothing would do more to encourage immigration there than to show the results of such efforts made by the Government, as similar experiments made by the Canadian Pacific Railway which showed that in what was considered a desert tract there could be successful farming in the North-West. I think, then, it is the duty of this Government especially to make a very early effort to remove this difficulty. There are many people who go into that country who know nothing about the varieties of soil, the soil and climate, and the Government might very well in a year or two be able to issue information to the people by a system of bulletins—which I understand is in operation in many of the American experimental farms—giving valuable information to the people generally as to the success of any particular experiment they may have made. I am satisfied there is no proposal that would meet the wishes of the farming community of Canada more thoroughly than to pay some little attention to the great difficulties always surrounding their particular business, and those who have often to labor under very great disadvantage. I am sure hon. gentlemen should sympathise with the movement and should congratulate the Minister on undertaking such a work. It is not the first time he has embarked in enterprises of very great advantage to the country. When the hon. gentleman had the honor of filling the position of Commissioner of Agriculture in Ontario, he brought in more than one measure of very great importance to the farmers. He it was who first proposed the model farm, which is now such a success in the Province, and I am glad to say it is a success in very many directions indeed, and it has done very much to inform the people, not only as to the quality of stock, but as the state of perfection that can be attained in other branches of agriculture. I trust that the House will aid the Minister in every way to carry out this enterprise, and that he will get the credit that he honestly deserves for undertaking it.

Mr. McNEILL. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) thinks there is no need for establishing these experimental farms in the North-West, because, he says, the farmer there conducts his farming operations after his own methods, and he thinks that is the best mode for us to deal with this question—to let each farmer farm as he thinks best. I entirely differ from that view of the question. I think that just the very object which the Minister of Agriculture has in view is the object of counteracting that diversity of method—the object of assisting the farmers—of preventing their being obliged to experiment for themselves, and of having some system of experiment conducted, to which the farmer can refer and refer to with security, as being something that he can depend upon. I think, from what has fallen from two hon. members, in the course of this short debate, we see the great necessity for the establishment of some system of thoroughly reliable experiments in the North-West. My hon. friend from York (Mr. Wallace) told us it was very important that wheat should be cut before it was fully matured. An hon. member on the other side gets up immediately afterwards and says no greater mistake could be made. Now, you see at once the importance of having some authority to refer to on this subject. For my own part having some little experience in farming, I agree with my hon. friend behind me (Mr. Wallace). I think from what I have gathered, that a great mistake is made even in the Province of Ontario by our farmers leaving their wheat too long on the ground. I believe that if wheat is cut when most farmers would consider it is green, it will be found to produce a much better milling wheat than if it is left until they would consider it thoroughly ripe and a great deal of the grain has turned into bran,

Mr. WATSON. I said that it should be matured well enough to make good flour. I agree that it should be cut on the green side. But not so green that it would not be liable to grow again.

Mr. McNEILL. I think the hon. gentleman expresses fairly what he said, but he said also that he considered that wheat might make better milling wheat if it was cut on the green side, but if it was cut so green as not to be so good for seed it would not be equally good for milling. Now, I doubt if the hon. gentleman ever made an experiment of that kind.

Mr. WATSON. Yes, I have.

Mr. McNEILL. But how much too green was it cut? that is exactly what we want to know, because there is no question of more vital importance to the farmers of this country than the question of at what stage their wheat, oats, peas, and other grain, should be cut. If these experimental farms were properly to elucidate that one question alone, they would be of immense value to the farming interests of the country. But there are very many other matters, as has already been stated, as to which these farms would be most valuable. Nothing is more important in connection with the North-West than that we should discover some kind of wheat which will mature rapidly. The seasons there are short, and if we can produce seed grain which will mature a week or so more rapidly, which will require to be a week or so less time in the ground than the wheat used at present, it may make all the difference in a season between a great success in farming and a failure. So, too, we require information with regard to other seed, with regard to the forest trees which will grow best there, and with regard to fruit trees. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) so far as I could follow him, if he pushed his argument to its logical conclusion, would do away with the Minister of Agriculture altogether. I do not see that, taking his view of the case, we require a Minister of Agriculture at all; we should simply leave the matter to the Provinces. It seems to me that whenever anything is proposed by the Government of the country, dealing with the general interests of the people of this country, whether it be a question with reference to agriculture such as we are dealing with now, or a question with reference to the preservation of our fisheries such as we were dealing with this afternoon, or whether it be a question with reference to the adulteration of food, the hon. member for Bothwell comes with a wet blanket and endeavors to smother the whole thing and say that we had better leave it alone, or leave it to somebody else. Now, it seems to me that what we have to do here is to legislate for the benefit of the people, and it is time enough for us to hold our hands when the legal tribunals of the empire decide that we have gone too far. It is best to be on the safe side, and in this case the safe side is to legislate for the benefit of the people. It is a very good direction in which to go too far, to legislate for the benefit of the country.

Mr. CHARLTON. I think the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. McNeill), has misunderstood the position of the hon. gentleman for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), with regard to this proposal to establish an experimental farm. I did not understand the hon. gentleman for Bothwell to oppose the proposal. He pointed out to the Government what I think was perfectly proper, that if it were practicable it would be better to establish these farms by the Local Government, and have local supervision, on the ground that the experiments would be more efficient, but I did not understand him to oppose the principle of the establishment of these farms. I think the agriculturists are entitled to every consideration from this House and the country. They pay the great bulk of the taxes, and these taxes, I am sorry to say, are often expended for worse purposes than the establishment of experimental farms. I hope, however