

there. Some varieties are transferred later to Indian Head for further development under conditions there.

As to giving away apples, there is difficulty about giving away anything from the experimental farms. There is not enough for the whole population, and if it is given to some people and not to others, there is trouble. These trees are there for experimental purposes. It is possible that some fruit is allowed to rot under the trees, but perhaps people in the locality do get some of it in spite of the fact that there is no general policy of giving it away. I understand that all sound fruit is gathered and sold.

Mr. RICKARD: What varieties are there?

Mr. GARDINER: They are not the usual varieties that one finds in eastern Canada. They are mostly hardy varieties brought from Russia and similar places, or hybrids of some kind.

Mr. STIRLING: Are farmers taking up the notion of growing apples there? Could the minister set at rest the suggestion that the garden of Eden was originally there?

Mr. GARDINER: Fruit trees are being grown on farms; some have very creditable orchards. That is particularly true I think in the Melfort and Tisdale regions, which are much further north than Indian Head but seem to be better suited to the growing of fruit trees. I think, however, most people who try to grow fruit trees in western Canada find that—

Mr. STIRLING: That it is difficult.

Mr. GARDINER: Well, it is an interesting pastime, but I do not think you can grow fruit cheaper there than it can be imported from somewhere else.

Mr. PERLEY: They have discovered that the flavour of apples grown there is much better than that of those grown in the Okanagan valley.

Mr. HANSELL: I have been looking at pages 65 and 66 of the estimates for some information on this item but do not find what I am after. When driving along the roads out west I have noticed farms with signs on the fences indicating that they are experimental stations of some kind. On making inquiry I have not been able to satisfy myself entirely as to what these places are. I know they are not government-owned stations because in some instances I knew the man who owned the farm. But just how he operates it, and what use it is to the Department of Agriculture or to the country, I have not been able to learn. Would the minister tell us about these stations?

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. GARDINER: There are illustration stations across Canada, 171 of them all told at present. These stations are set up on a similar basis in the different parts of Canada. A certain part of a farm is rented; the farmer does the work; the seed is supplied by the government; it is seeded under direction of the experimental farms, and records are kept as to the results. The farmer has all the product from the plot, but the neighbours in the vicinity have the advantage of seeing the experiments carried on and the results.

Mr. HANSELL: The strange thing I found as I made inquiry about these stations is that the people living in the communities do not seem to know much about them. I have heard such remarks as this—although I feel that the remark is not true—"Well, it may be a good Liberal station", the inference being that there may be patronage of some sort. I say I do not believe that is true, because I know one or two of these stations in or near my own constituency that are operated by men who I am certain are not Liberals. As a matter of fact, one of them is—

An hon. MEMBER: Be careful.

Mr. HANSELL: I hope the gentleman to whom I refer will not lose his job now.

An hon. MEMBER: You may lose his support.

Mr. HANSELL: No, the gentleman to whom I have reference is a very strong supporter of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party. What remuneration is paid the men who work these plots of land?

Mr. GARDINER: There is no wage at all. They are paid \$1 an acre and, as I said before, they get the results of their labour on that acre just as they do in connection with any other acre of the farm.

With regard to the other point, as to whether the neighbours are made acquainted with what is going on, there is at least one field day held on each of these plots, and on many of them there are two field days. The average attendance at these field days runs from one hundred to five hundred, so quite a number of people do take advantage of the fact that these stations are there. With regard to the political stripe of the people who operate them, I think there are some good farmers who are not Liberals.

Mr. HANSELL: How far are the stations apart, or how are certain locations chosen?

Mr. GARDINER: They are about fifty to seventy-five miles apart, as a rule, in certain areas; but with only 171 of them scattered