

Supply—Agriculture

I believe that the problem raised by the hon. member for Timmins calls into question the whole crop insurance program. I am not asking the minister for an answer tonight, but I would suggest that the crop insurance program instituted by the former government has been in effect long enough for us to see that there are many weaknesses in the program. The majority of farmers can take no advantage of it whatever. I hope the minister will keep this fact in mind because it is one of the major problems of farmers, in so far as crop damage is concerned.

Item agreed to.

25e. Institutes, stations, farms, laboratories and services—operation and maintenance—to extend the purposes of vote 25 of the main estimates for 1963-64 to include a grant of \$3,635 to assist in publishing a scientific treatise, \$1.

Mr. Thomas: May we have an explanation of this vote? It is stated that the grant amounts to \$3,635, and yet there is only one dollar listed in the estimates.

Mr. McIlraith: The significance of the one dollar item is that the vote authorizing the publication contains enough money, and this was in the main estimates, but the wording of the item is not wide enough to permit the grant to be used for this publication.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether it is his intention to increase subsidies granted for research work carried out at the experimental farm of L'Assomption concerning tobacco of different varieties, as well as fruits and vegetables?

[*Text*]

Mr. Hays: We do a great deal of research at both Harrow and Delhi in so far as tobacco is concerned. We do a great deal of research at Summerland, British Columbia and also in Vineland in so far as food is concerned. I believe that in the estimates this year we have pretty well covered this area but I would be glad to take the hon. member's question into consideration and see whether these stations are receiving ample amounts in so far as tobacco research is concerned.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say one more word. I am in favour of continuing research at Delhi and Harrow, but we must not forget that the temperature and the soil are quite different from what they are in the province of Quebec, and it is imperative for certain varieties of tobacco, such as cigar tobacco, that experimental research be carried out at L'Assomption, and not in another province.

[*Mr. Peters.*]

[*Text*]

Item agreed to.

30e. Institutes, stations, farms, laboratories and services—construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and equipment, \$220,000.

Mr. Thomas: Could we have an explanation of where these buildings are being placed? Is it one building or several?

Mr. Hays: You mean an explanation of item 30e?

Mr. Thomas: Right.

Mr. Hays: The main estimates amount to \$3,525,000 and the supplementary estimate is for \$220,000. This money is required for expenditures in connection with a steam converter, Fredericton, New Brunswick, \$11,000; acquisition of land at St. Jean, Quebec, \$62,000; acquisition of land at Lennoxville, Quebec, \$125,000; construction of a research laboratory and administration building in Swift Current, \$169,000; installation of a water main at Lethbridge, Alberta, \$46,000. We lost our dairy barn by fire last fall and part of the amount contained in this item was used to rebuild it.

Item agreed to.

50e. Dairy products division—grants and other assistance in accordance with cheese and cheese factory improvement act, \$97,500.

Mr. Ricard: According to what the minister was saying this afternoon, his new policy with regard to cheese has been a whale of a success. I should like to ask him now how many new factories were built as a result of this new approach to this dairy product?

Mr. Hays: These cheese factories are privately owned and controlled, but the government did participate in storage facilities for cheese. We did have a large increase in the production of cheese which I think was the result of our dairy policy introduced in May, 1963. As the hon. member for Timiskaming mentioned, we did have a market. The cheese board was successful in selling a great deal more cheese in Great Britain. I think the cheese business is in a very healthy state. These people who have been manufacturing cheese are quite capable of looking after their business, and they make a good product.

Mr. Ricard: I have no quarrel with the minister's statement that our cheese is a very good product. We know that, and we have known that for a long time. However, I should like him to tell me how many new cheese factories have been built as a result of this changed dairy policy?