

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Requests have come from various parts to increase the number of experimental farms. The Experimental Farm Act specifies the number and where they shall be. The farm at Ottawa is on the boundary between Quebec and Ontario, so that it serves these two great provinces. That was the decision arrived at by our predecessors, whom the hon. gentleman and his friends have supported.

I confess that I consider that the number of experimental farms at present is sufficient for the needs of the experimental work of the country, so far as great experimental farms can carry on that work. I have always believed as I stated when the establishment of the experimental farms was originally proposed, that it would have been better if, instead of the great farms, farms smaller in extent and less expensive in their management—small illustration or experimental stations—had been established all over the country. That view was not accepted at the time. Great establishments were made at the various points, and a large amount of money was spent on them, and a large amount of annual expenditure entailed. We would not be able to change that whole policy without making a radical change in the Act, and involving the country in large additional expenditure. The work has been done on the lines laid down, it has been carried out by the officers in an excellent manner. I am glad to say that this work inaugurated by my predecessors in office and my political opponents has been well carried out, and has resulted in great advantage to the farming industry and population of the country. I am not prepared, in view of the large expenditure of the farms to-day, to propose a radical change in the farm policy. I have had it in view, as is well known to hon. members who were in the last parliament to extend the work with establishments on a smaller scale. But that was met with such opposition by hon. gentlemen opposite, and by other gentlemen in this House, that it was dropped. I still believe that it would be in the interest of agriculture and of the community at large, if such a change could be brought about. But I have not seen my way to repeat the proposal this session. It would not have involved any change in the management or equipment of the present experimental farms.

Mr. MONK. The hon. gentleman has gone far beyond the question I asked him. What I wished to elicit a reply to is this—as he says there is no desire in the province of Quebec to have a complete experimental farm; but representations have been made, I believe, and figures laid before him to show that the Experimental Farm at Ottawa is not easily accessible, and therefore it is desired that a station upon a modest scale, a sort of model farm, should be

Mr. MONK.

established near Montreal. I wished to know if the minister had arrived at a decision on these representations. I know that such representations have been made from my own county.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Similar representations have been made from various sections all over the country.

Mr. MONK. But I would like the hon. minister to answer with regard to the province of Quebec.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am going to answer the hon. gentleman's question, but in the way I think right to answer it. Similar representations and requests have been made from various parts of the country, from Vancouver on the west to Prince Edward Island on the east. I have never seen my way to accede to one of these requests, or to deal with them as I thought it would be well to do, if I dealt with one.

Mr. SPROULE. What has been the hon. gentleman's success or otherwise in dealing with the San José scale last year and the year before?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Here again I would point out that I am taking a vote to deal with that, and I shall be prepared to discuss the subject when the question comes up.

Mr. SPROULE. Then, there is an item?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes—not in the main estimates, but in the supplementary estimates for this year or next year.

Mr. McCREARY. In view of the fact that the hon. gentleman has stated, that these farms have become unwieldy—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They are the same as they were.

Mr. McCREARY. Yes, but they have accomplished their object and are not accomplishing the same object to-day—has it been brought to his attention that these establishments might be turned rather into agricultural schools than into experimental farms. Many hon. gentlemen on both sides have expressed the idea that we should have more British immigrants. But I submit that the only British immigrants we are likely to get—and I think the reports of the High Commissioner will bear me out—are young men who are not familiar with farming—sons of professional men and others. Their parents send these young men out with sums varying from £100 to £600. But the difficulty is to get these young men to engage in farming. If they go to cattle ranching or horse ranching, that is looked upon as a kind of sport, and they will go into it at once. But as to going into actual farming, they hesitate to risk their capital, on account of lack of knowledge of farming. The