

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Is the work still going on?

Mr. GARDINER: As I said a moment ago, there might be some difficulty about our subscribing to an organization whose headquarters are in Rome, and if it is found impracticable either to secure the service or to make the subscription, our subscription will cease. At the time these estimates were made there was not the same reason as there is now for taking that position, and we decided to leave the item in the estimates.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Are we getting the service at the present time?

Mr. GARDINER: We were, until war was declared. There is some doubt whether we shall be able to continue to get it.

Item agreed to.

Science service.

6. Science service administration, \$25,467.

Mr. GARDINER: There are two of a staff—a clerk grade 3, and a clerk grade 2—in addition to the staff we had previously.

Mr. COLDWELL: What work is undertaken in this particular branch?

Mr. GARDINER: All of the sciences are under this branch; that is, all the studies such as entomology, as indicated in item 11; the study of diseases of plants, the study of diseases of animals, the study of chemistry in relation to plant life and also in relation to the treatment of diseases.

Mr. COLDWELL: The staff is rather small for that amount of work.

Mr. GARDINER: This item provides only for the administrative staff. Many of these activities are conducted in different parts of Canada.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I notice there is an item "cooperative investigations"; and that the amount is reduced from \$5,000 to \$2,100. Could the minister tell us something about the work covered by this item?

Mr. GARDINER: This has to do largely with the projects carried out at the various universities and colleges associated with universities. We shall simply have to reduce the work in some directions.

Mr. NICHOLSON: What sort of work?

Mr. GARDINER: It might be in any branch of science. We carry on certain types of work at one laboratory because they have the equipment to do it; other types are handled in other universities. The cooperation is between this department and the provincial department or the university staff.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Cooperative investigations?

Mr. GARDINER: Investigations carried out on a cooperative basis. The term may not be exactly descriptive of the work.

Mr. MARSHALL: Is the minister in a position to state what amount was spent last year?

Mr. GARDINER: The entire vote was spent last year.

Item agreed to.

Science service.

7. Animal and poultry pathology, \$146,615.

Mr. REID: Is it under this item that the Langley Prairie research laboratory comes? I notice a reduction of about \$11,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, it is under this item.

Mr. REID: Is it intended to carry on that station this year?

Mr. GARDINER: We will carry it on to the extent that it is possible with the money we have available, and in order to clear up the work which is now under way, to complete the investigations that are now being carried on. It may not be possible to start new investigations.

Mr. REID: I hope that the minister and the department will see their way to carry on this work, because it is the only laboratory of its kind in British Columbia. It investigates animal diseases which exist in no other province. The mortality of the cows in that district is extremely high—as high as twenty-five per cent.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What is the matter? The climate?

Mr. REID: The disease is known as bovine haematuria. I believe the ordinary name is red water. But there are districts with fifteen per cent mortality. One farmer who breeds foxes has slaughtered over 200 cows in five years. Research work was started in 1934. It has been carried on year after year, and in my opinion should be maintained, irrespective of the war and of reductions in departmental estimates, with a view of finding the cause of this disease. I believe it exists only in the Fraser valley. It has existed there for fifty or sixty years. No one has discovered the cause. It is not contagious. It does not show up until an animal is two years of age; but the losses are extremely heavy. I know that our farmers are very much worried to learn that this research work is likely to be