

but Paris green is used extensively on the farm for the protection of the potato. The man who invented formalin is another chemist; and many presidents and officials of agricultural colleges do not farm for themselves. I commend these words to my hon. friend. I have not asked the minister for an experimental farm; I know he has not the money; but when he goes to the Council chamber and gets a little more money from his colleagues, if I am still a member of this House next year, he will hear from me when he comes before us with his Estimates again, if he has not more money to spend for agriculture.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I am sure, after listening to the statement made by the Minister of Railways and Canals, (Mr. Reid) this afternoon, we must all feel that we cannot very consistently advocate an increase in expenditure for anything we can possibly get along without. I realize, however, that this is a very important item, and the work that can be done is certainly very great. I do not very often appropriate to myself credit for anything to which I am not entitled; but I believe if I have convinced the minister and the Government of the efficacy of bran for poisoning grasshoppers, I have done something during the time I have been in this House. If there is on hand any of the old bran, such as was used during the last few years, he should get a monopoly of it, put a little molasses on it and scatter it out. I think it will destroy most of the grasshoppers.

Perhaps the pest about which I wish to speak might more properly have come under the item which we have just passed. I refer to the white grub which is very prevalent in Ontario and which has destroyed vast areas of pasture land. I believe the department has an officer at Strathroy in East Middlesex. Can the minister give the committee any information as to the possibilities of combatting this pest that is destroying thousands of acres of the old pasture lands? In fact, the new land also that a few years ago was covered with a beautiful sod has been absolutely destroyed by this pest, and the land is now covered with weeds. I believe the white grub larvae is laid by what is commonly called the June bug, which we see flying around in such large numbers in the month of June. I think it would be well to have the experts inquire whether anything can be done to destroy this pest, and I should like to know what reports the minister has received on the matter from the officer at Strathroy, in which section of the country vast areas have been

[Mr. Fournier.]

converted to grazing purposes during the past few years. This is a serious matter in those districts, because these lands have to be broken up and again brought under cultivation.

Mr. TOLMIE: I regret I cannot give the hon. member any information as to the investigations that are now being carried on, but if this pest is creating as much trouble as my hon. friend says, I shall take steps to familiarize myself with the conditions at once, and see that such measures are taken as may be advisable under the circumstances. An investigation is going on, but I do not know just what stage it has reached.

Answering the question of my hon. friend opposite (Mr. Fournier), I am pleased to note he realizes the importance of agriculture in Canada. Certainly, there is a very great field for development. Agriculture, to use a western expression, "is Canada's one best bet." I might point out that while during the last five years our appropriations for agriculture have been in the neighbourhood of three millions a year, or slightly more, this year we are appropriating between five and six millions, which is a decided increase.

With regard to what my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Gould) has said about the grasshopper plague, we maintain a man in Manitoba at Treestank and keep in close touch with the grasshopper work at all times. South of the line, where they have an earlier spring, it is only natural the Americans should get busy a little sooner than we do. So far as our staff is concerned, I think it is a very excellent one. It was organized by the late Dr. Hewitt, whose value was almost inestimable, but who unfortunately was lost to us by his untimely death about a year ago. He was making a reputation for himself throughout the whole world as one of its leading entomologists. He established our branch and brought it up to its present state of efficiency. We are doing our utmost to maintain that efficiency, and I am quite sure that the staff we have now will compare very favourably with that of any other similar branch in the world.

Mr. ROBB: Would the minister make a statement as to the duplication of work by the federal and provincial Departments of Agriculture? I notice in the minister's own publication, dated December, 1920, that full credit for combatting the grasshopper plague is given to the Department of Agriculture of the province of Saskatchewan. I gathered to-day from the minister that it was his department that did the work.