

Supply—Agriculture

The officers of the council are as follows:

President

J. H. Lavoie, Quebec, Que.

First Vice-President

Paul Fisher, Burlington, Ont.

Second Vice-President

Charles Craig, Ottawa, Ont.

Secretary-Treasurer

L. F. Burrows, Ottawa, Ont.

Mr. SENN: The reason I asked the question was that I had heard from different sources that the growers themselves were not represented on the council to the extent that the other allied interests were.

An hon. MEMBER: Such as politicians.

Mr. SENN: Such as the shippers and canners; they appear to be in the majority on the council.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): I do not think we should allow this vote to go through.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The canners have a representative in the person of Mr. Drynan of Hamilton.

Mr. EVANS: I would like to ask the minister—

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): Have I the floor, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. EVANS: I would like to know why a grant is made to this horticultural council. What public service do they perform?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They look after the interest of the horticulturists and the fruit interests, in the same manner as other organizations. I think it was in 1923 or 1924 that they undertook to institute a registration system so that any new plants, shrubs, trees, or anything of that nature which had been propagated and introduced as new varieties could be registered and recorded.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): I do not think that we should vote this \$8,000 to the horticultural council, as their chief activities seem to be in the line of politics. Their chief ambition seems to be to impose a certain fiscal policy upon the government which fiscal policy is not that of the government.

An hon. MEMBER: What is yours?

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): A year ago last March this organization held a convention in the Chateau Laurier at which they drew up a schedule of values which were to determine the duties to be levied by the government of Canada upon certain imports. The secre-

[Mr. Motherwell.]

tary Mr. L. F. Burrows, has an office in this city. I believe that office is located in a government building, and I do not know whether or not he has to pay any rent for it; I do not think he does. He is registered in the telephone directory of this building, and his telephone is attached to our central. In addition to all this, he is getting \$8,000 per year and he has been conducting a very active lobby within the very walls of this building. He admitted as much to me last spring, sitting there in the corridor, and I found him there again yesterday although I do not know what he was doing. I do not think it is the function of this government, or any government, to vote public funds to any political organization in order to carry on political propaganda throughout the country.

Mr. STIRLING: I would like to make a few remarks in connection with the Canadian Horticultural Council. The view has been advanced that because this council has been dealing with the matter of protection, which the industry considers to be desirable, therefore it should no longer receive assistance from this government. Let us consider for a moment the history of the council. It came into existence at the instigation of the Minister of Agriculture. Prior to that time the minister and his predecessor had found it very difficult to obtain information from the various sections of the industry throughout Canada which have since been affiliated in the horticultural council. When the government desired information in connection with the regulation of the industries they were put to considerable expense in collecting that information in regard to fruit, vegetables, flowers, bulbs, plants and kindred subjects. Therefore the minister decided that it would be a good thing to foster the creation of an association of these allied interests, and the horticultural council came into existence in 1924. It has an office in Ottawa with a resident secretary, and since that time whenever any question has arisen with regard to the allied industries the minister has been able to obtain the necessary information through the machinery so created. The industries organized under that council considered that protection was desirable. Was it wrong of the council to be the means of collecting the evidence and of laying it in an orderly fashion before the tariff advisory board? Under our law we see to it that even a murderer has his case properly presented to the judge. Is it wrong, when the allied interests considered that protection was desirable, whether they be right or whether they be wrong, to use this piece of machinery