

plant pathologists. The chief reason that it is not advisable at this time to transfer potatoes to the Seed branch is the additional expense involved. I recognize that Mr. Clark's staff is quite competent and quite efficient to deal with that question, but we cannot give the service through the Seed branch without a very heavy additional expense.

Mr. MARTELL: Are any experiments proposed to be carried on in Nova Scotia or in the Maritime provinces to ascertain whether or not certain varieties of apples could be grown so that young farmers of the provinces could conduct experiments on their own farms, with a view to adopting promising new varieties? I make the same inquiry with regard to plum trees and pear trees in Nova Scotia. Could the minister inform me if anything has been done in his department towards getting cheaper rates on nitrate of soda? That is a very valuable product for fruit growers in my part of the country, and in fact for all the fruit growers in the province, and the freights are found to be excessive. Is the department doing anything in the way of negotiating with the various municipalities with a view to taking up with the railways the question of freight rates on nitrate of soda? This matter may not be considered apropos of the question before the committee, but apple growing is somewhat akin to it. If the minister could do something for us in that regard, in order to introduce new classes of fruits in Nova Scotia, I think it would be a good thing.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I do not know how far, Mr. Chairman, you will let me take up these various matters. There is the Fertilizer Act and the Seed Act and other acts, but fruit has been disposed of by the act passed recently. There is a very substantial amount of experimenting with apples being conducted constantly, apart from the experimental farm. At the exhibition last fall I saw a number of very choice boxes of apples which looked very tempting, and I think their cultivation might prove very successful in many parts of Canada. The same experiment is being conducted on the experimental farm, and in the Maritime provinces. I think I have dealt with my hon. friend's question.

Section agreed to.

On section 6—Provisions as to use of established variety names and the licensing of new variety names:

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This section has been amended in committee by adding in the third line the words:

Agricultural or garden vegetable seeds or plants.

Mr. MacKELVIE: What does that mean?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is to permit of the registration of new varieties of plants through the Canadian Council of Horticulture, which is making provision for registration of both plants and trees, so that a record may be kept, just in the same way as there is a registration of animals. I think this is the first of its kind, not only in Canada, but on this continent.

Mr. MacKELVIE: What steps have to be taken by an applicant for registration?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I was mistaken in saying that this work was not done in the United States. It has been started there, but the proposal is to make it international. The secretary of the Canadian Council of Horticulture is Mr. Burrows of the Fruit branch, and any communications addressed to him would secure the information desired. I think they are not quite organized yet. In the estimates, there is an item, which I do not think we have yet reached, covering an additional grant to the Canadian Council of Horticulture to carry on this work.

Mr. TOLMIE: Is a regular standard established, or under what conditions will these registrations be accepted? I presume some varieties will be eligible for registration and others not. What will be the line of demarcation?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The idea is to make such a thorough description of a variety that the party who has discovered it cannot be defrauded. A man may have spent years of toil in propagating a new plant, and this is to prevent others who may find out about it from stealing it. Cases where such a new variety has been stolen overnight have been known. This registration applies to apple trees, etc., bulbs and plants of all descriptions.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—Provisions as to sale of seeds for export when purported to have been inspected and graded:

Mr. MacKELVIE: Will these seeds, when exported, be marked as Canadian, so as to establish a standard for our home-grown seeds?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Under paragraph (a) the name and address of the seller will be on the package, and under paragraph (e)