

Mr. FAIR: I am not discussing that at all. I am saying, the complaint is that the salary paid does not come up to the amount specified when the application is sent out.

Mr. GARDINER: We follow the civil service regulations strictly and everything has been done in accordance therewith.

Item agreed to.

Experimental farms service.

14. Branch farms and stations, and illustration stations, \$1,309,276.

Mr. PERLEY: In this vote there is a considerable decrease amounting to about \$185,000. I understood the minister to say earlier in the evening that certain of these substations might be closed. I trust that none in Saskatchewan will be closed. The main experimental farm in that province is at Indian Head. It is perhaps one of the finest farms of the kind in Canada. We have also five stations and one substation. I wish to pay my respects to the superintendent at Indian Head, Mr. Gibson. He is doing wonderful work. Hardly a day passes in the summer, in the months of June, July and August, when there is not a field day at that farm. Different societies go there and hold picnics, and the superintendent is doing invaluable work demonstrating what is going on at the farm. He should be complimented upon his patience. He helps a number of clubs and different organizations, and his work is highly commendable. The committee will be interested to know that we not only grow wheat in Saskatchewan but can grow the finest varieties of fruit. At page 82 of the report of the department there is this paragraph with regard to the experimental farm at Indian Head:

Fruit trees came through with little injury. A heavy crop of bloom developed into an over-abundant crop of fruit. . . . Some large apples and tender varieties of plums reached maturity.

I refer to this paragraph because, driving through the farm last fall, I noticed a heavy crop of apples on some trees and I was surprised to see apples on the ground. I inquired at the office and was told that they were not giving them away, and I am sure there were a good many people out there who would have been glad to gather up the apples under the trees. I mention this to show that we can grow apples in our part of the province. The minister might give us some information with regard to the experiments carried on there particularly with fruit.

We have a substation at Regina and I would ask the minister to indicate some of the results of the experiments there in connection with soil drifting. Would he make a statement as to the revenue derived from the five

stations in that province? I understand there is grain sold and there must be considerable revenue from some of the stations.

I notice also in the reports of the experimental farms at Indian Head and Melfort that there has been a transfer of the herds; the Ayrshire herd was taken from Indian Head to Melfort and the shorthorn herd was taken from Melfort to Indian Head. What recommendation was made for this, and what is the advantage of the transfer? While I am all in favour of the shorthorn breed—it may be the best breed for Saskatchewan generally—I think the Ayrshire breed tends to encourage dairying, and possibly both breeds could be carried advantageously at the one station.

The minister made reference to the Patterson farm at Indian Head. I believe that farm was given to the department without rental on the understanding that the buildings would be kept in repair and the land not allowed to go back. I think reference should be made to the fact that Mr. Patterson gave the use of that farm as a contribution to agriculture in western Canada. A year or so ago he died and I believe the farm is now under a different arrangement, but I think Mr. Patterson's action should be commended and brought to the attention of western Canada, in giving for a number of years one of the finest sections of land in western Canada—there is hardly a foot of waste land on it—to the department for experimental purposes without rent.

Mr. GARDINER: I must correct the suggestion just made. Probably it was at one time the intention of Mr. Patterson to leave that farm to the government, but when he made his will he did not do so. The farm does not belong to the government, and will not unless the government buys it. We have paid rent for the farm and buildings ever since it was first turned over, a fairly good rent. It is not the intention of the government to rent that farm beyond this year. Mr. Patterson's first thought probably was that when he passed on, the farm might be turned over to the government, but that did not materialize.

Mr. PERLEY: I am sorry to hear that. The general impression in that part of the province was that he gave the use of the farm without rent. Of course I understood that when he passed on, some other arrangement would be made.

Mr. GARDINER: Regarding fruit growing, experiments are being carried on towards the development of varieties suitable to the west. That work is largely done at Morden, Manitoba, and has been going on for a number of years. Cross grafting of trees in order to produce hardy varieties is being done largely