

atoes for sale in the province from which I come.

Mr. HAZEN: Perhaps you could get them from New Brunswick. There is also a fine crop of potatoes in Alberta this year. I understand that potatoes are scarce in New York state, so removing the duty might not help.

Mr. HUGHES: If we cannot get potatoes from the United States suspending the duty will do no harm. The suggestion is worth considering.

Mr. HAZEN: I am informed that the Department of Agriculture has undertaken to inspect for the Government of Ontario 6,000 bushels of potatoes that are being brought from Alberta for seed purposes in Northern Ontario. I am told that the potato crop in Alberta is excellent, and that the potatoes are clean and absolutely free from disease of any sort.

Mr. HUGHES: I am afraid that coming from such a long distance the price will be pretty high.

Mr. HAZEN: They are very cheap.

Mr. OLIVER: I am willing to support the suggestion of my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island. We had an abundant crop of potatoes in Northern Alberta last year, but nevertheless I should like to see the suggestion of my hon. friend acted upon. I would also suggest to the minister the advisability of securing from the railways such a rate as would enable the surplus of potatoes in Alberta to reach the market in Eastern Canada. I think it is a matter of sufficient importance to claim the attention of the Government. We had a very abundant crop last summer in Alberta, so abundant that I am afraid that in some cases the potatoes were left in the ground as not worth taking up. And it may be that some have been lost in the very severe weather this winter. But even so, there is a large surplus and the price is low.

Mr. HUGHES: Will the hon. minister take into consideration the suggestion of the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver).

Mr. HAZEN: That is a matter for the Finance Minister. We will consider it, certainly.

Mr. HUGHES: Do something more—consider it favourably.

National Biological Laboratory, \$25,000.

Mr. HAZEN: That item has been in for many years. It never has been used.

Mr. TURRIFF: If we are going to practice economy, it seems to me this is a chance for it. I move that this item be struck out.

Mr. HAZEN: There is no extravagance if the money is not spent. It was put in the Estimates a number of years ago when there was talk of establishing a health department, and it was intended to have a biological laboratory in connection with that department. I do not know whether the amount will be required this year. But it is hardly worth while striking out.

Mr. TURRIFF: I do not agree with the hon. minister. The fact that it has been there for a number of years is the reason why it should be struck out. If it is kept there somebody may find a way of expending the money.

Mr. HAZEN: I think it would be a very good thing.

Mr. TURRIFF: Then the Government has been remiss for the last four years in not spending the money.

Mr. HAZEN: Both Governments have been remiss; there is no doubt about that.

Amendment of Mr. Turriff negatived.

For the administration and carrying out of the provisions of the Agricultural Instruction Act, \$25,000.

Mr. OLIVER: What is this for?

Mr. HAZEN: The Act referred to is the one under which \$1,000,000 or more is distributed among the provinces. This is for expenses of administration.

Mr. KAY: Would the minister mind leaving this over? The hon. member for Huntingdon (Mr. Robb) wishes to discuss it.

Mr. HAZEN: As hon. members know, I never object to the discussion of any matter relating to the department on any item before the committee. Still, if it is deemed more convenient to let this stand, I will accede to that request.

Mr. CARVELL: The hon. member for Huntingdon asked that it should be allowed to stand. When it comes up, perhaps the minister will be able to explain how in the world he is going to spend \$25,000.

Mr. TURRIFF: Does the department charge a commission?