

ions, different in the East from the West, would be a retrograde step; it would be going back to a system which the United States discarded because it was unsatisfactory.

With regard to the work of Dr. Birchard, does that come under this vote?

Mr. LOW: His salary is included in the civil government estimate, but his work comes under this vote.

Mr. MILLAR: I would like to say a word in regard to that. It is a work of vast importance. We have certain types of wheat that are not getting justice. I make bold to say that one can take No. 1 northern wheat, dampen it for twenty-four hours and make it grade No. 3. The wheat itself is not damaged in the least, but it becomes so discoloured in the bran that it goes into No. 3. The Americans are buying on the protein test. They are picking out our strong wheats, and the millers are doing the same. Everywhere great importance is laid on the strength of our wheat, yet the farmer has no means of knowing the strength of the grain he is selling. One improvement made during the time that Dr. Birchard has been at work was the raising of the moisture test, having to do with the amount of moisture the grain will carry and yet not be damaged in storage.

It has been raised—I am speaking offhand—a little over two per cent. What does that mean? It means that thousands of cars that were formerly graded tough, and would thereby lose six or seven cents a bushel, are now graded straight since the moisture test has been raised to 14 or 14.2, and that in itself is a great gain. I believe the chief inspector should have this official right at hand all the time to give him every assistance. Their work should be brought as close together as possible. There have been some reports, I do not know whether they are any more than rumours, that there was some thought of taking this work to a greater distance than it is now, even of doing it at the Agricultural College. Let me say that if the work is done at the Agricultural College, some two or three miles away from the inspection department, it might as well be closed down, in fact better, because we would get no benefit while there would be a pretence of giving us protection. I believe that millions of dollars would be saved to the producers of this country if the work that Dr. Birchard is doing was developed still further. Some of the other parts of the Dominion may say they would not like to pay so much, that it would be too expensive. I think the test of that would be this: Would those who are to reap the direct benefit of this work be

willing to pay for it themselves, provided they were relieved from paying the bills of others in other parts of Canada? I am sure they would be willing to pay for the work if it was properly done. Some of the work that has been done will take years to come to fruit. This work should be continuous; it should be encouraged and developed, and as I said before, it should be kept as closely in touch with the chief inspector as possible. If I read aright the evidence of the chief inspector before the board of inquiry, he strongly approved of that; he was very much in favour of the work being carried out, and considered it a great help to him. I am quite convinced I saw that in the press reports. I have confidence in the minister. The stand he took in a certain matter has greatly pleased me. A certain matter came before him and had to be dealt with decisively, and his action in that case gave me confidence in him. I believe he will do the right thing in respect of this work also when he comes to understand it thoroughly, and I would ask him before he comes to any decision as to doing away with this office or moving it to a distance from the inspection department, that he take the advice of those who are in the best position to know. I suppose the Grain Inquiry Commission will report on this; the Board of Grain Commissioners and the chief inspector also know the value of the work, and I am quite convinced that when the minister has studied the matter, instead of the office being disbanded, he will be quite willing to spend more money on it, and he will be satisfied that it is money well spent.

Mr. MANION: I should like to ask the hon. member a question, and I do so entirely in good faith. He mentioned Davidson and Smith, and I rather gathered that his remarks reflected upon them. I happen to know them; they were constituents of mine for a long time, and I should like to know if my hon. friend meant it that way, or whether he just mentioned their names incidentally. I should like to know what he did mean, because his remarks sounded like a semi-charge against Davidson and Smith.

Mr. MILLAR: I would like to say to the hon. member that perhaps a year ago I would have been reluctant about mentioning their names at all. But let me tell my hon. friend this: A cargo of grain that went out of Port Arthur a year or perhaps two years ago to Buffalo was held up there, re-sampled by the inspection department, and graded 4 tough. When it went out of the Davidson and Smith elevator, it went out