

*Supply—Agriculture*

tions were put into effect. I said, "I am a member of parliament at Ottawa and I must confess in my ignorance I had not heard of it before." He said, "It is a regulation of the Department of Agriculture." He explained to me that some type of germ, moth or something got into the stones of this fruit and when people ate the fruit they threw the stones away. The stones dried and the moth, or whatever it was, flew out and the orchards became infested with the disease. The explanation was a good one. I do not expect them to go out of their way to tell a long story to every tourist who would come in, or to citizens of our own country who cross into the United States; but it would be more satisfying to those who come in if some word were given to them in that regard. I might even suggest a little printed sheet. It would not have to be elaborate. This sheet could be handed to them and it would explain the matter to them.

**Mr. Gardiner:** The procedure followed is that the officials of the customs hold up the fruit or other product which might be carrying disease into the country. It is just possible that some of these men are not equipped with the knowledge which would make it possible for them to make a full explanation. The regulations are there, and it must be done. The fruit or vegetables, as the case may be, are held until one of our inspectors goes there and inspects it. That might take place after the traveller has gone through. It is a regulation made to apply probably to larger quantities, and it may apply successfully to larger quantities. It is more or less of a nuisance for people who are going hurriedly back and forth across the line. Possibly the last suggestion made by the hon. member is a fairly good one, that these men be supplied with slips upon which the explanation is made. All they will need to do is to hand it to the person. I think it is good and we shall consider that method of dealing with it. Some way should be found of giving these people the information. I may say that it is a regulation which does not apply only to this country, as everyone knows. A very high official came to me a short time ago and said that he could not get certain plants put on an aeroplane going to England. He was a very high official from Britain. He said he was surprised that he could not send these plants to Britain, and that they would not accept them on the plane. I said, "That would not be our regulation, that would be a regulation of your own government." On checking it he found out it was a regulation of the British government. They could not load on a plane here to be taken into Britain certain

plants which might carry diseases from Canada to that country. It is a general regulation and a good one as applied to plants being moved from one country to another throughout the world. But I quite agree that some way ought to be found of telling the ordinary person who is just going back and forth across the line why the commodity is being seized.

**Mr. Smith (Calgary West):** I suppose the answer to the problem is that you should not bring into Canada moths in your stones, as the hon. member tried to imply.

Item agreed to.

Experimental farms service—

13. Experimental farms service administration, \$113,470.

**Mr. Knight:** Is this the correct place to discuss what we call forestry farms? We have one in Saskatoon.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Yes.

**Mr. Knight:** I should like to say a word or two on that question. What is the work carried on there? Is its only purpose the growing and distribution of small trees for the purpose of farmers establishing shelter belts and so forth? I shall have a word or two to say afterwards on another use which I conceive to be perhaps even better than that. In the meantime, is that the business of that particular institution?

**Mr. Gardiner:** The purpose of these forestry farms is to propagate trees to be supplied, I think free in all cases, to farmers in the prairie sections of western Canada. So far as the one at Saskatoon and the one at Indian Head are concerned, they deliver largely to farms in Saskatchewan, but they also deliver to farmers outside Saskatchewan. The reason for that is that it is very difficult to grow trees in some parts of that section of the country.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** And anything else.

**Mr. Gardiner:** My hon. friend back here says, "and anything else". We did a better job of feeding all of our people than they have done in British Columbia with the farm lands there. But in any case, trees are put out to farmers free of cost on condition that they plant them under the regulations which are laid down by the department.

**Mr. Knight:** Can the minister give me an estimate of the number of trees which have been distributed annually, and during the last year for instance?

**Mr. Gardiner:** I am informed the number would run up to five or six million trees a year.