

Supply—Agriculture

completion and we secured the building at a very good price, very much less than it could be built for at present.

Item agreed to.

Administration of Destructive Insect and Pest Act, and necessary buildings, \$580,000.

Mr. COOTE: Would the minister tell us the reason for this increase of \$50,000?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The insect invasions of Canada are becoming more numerous and more serious all the time, and we have to spend more money to circumscribe their activities. I have in mind the campaign carried on by the provincial government of Ontario and ourselves against the corn borer, as a result of which the corn acreage has come back to 75 per cent of what it was before the invasion of that insect, showing that our activities have been successful in restricting its ravages. Then there is the oriental peach moth; by keeping after that pest continually I think we can save at least a remnant of the peach crop.

Mr. BENNETT: What part of this vote is intended for buildings? There is a miscellaneous item which we are told includes the construction of a very costly building, perhaps costing \$150,000. I think estimates which deal with the extermination of pests and at the same time include buildings are not very good unless it is indicated just what the buildings are, how much of the estimate is to be expended for that purpose and to what extent there is a co-relation of the activities of this branch of this department with the research bureau, because I take it that you are studying methods by which to destroy these insects and pests which are so injurious to agriculture.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think the point is well taken. When I took charge of the department I found that there were a certain number of small buildings being erected, costing up to \$4,000, without such provisions being made. I consulted the Auditor General about it and he thought if we were going to put up further buildings in connection with these votes it should be so indicated. This reference to buildings was first included in the entomological vote when we erected the rust laboratory at Winnipeg; that was included in the vote after consultation with the Auditor General and it has been continued since. However, there are no buildings anticipated under this year's vote.

Item agreed to.

(Mr. Motherwell.)

Salary and expenses of agricultural produce marketing agent in Great Britain, \$15,000.

Mr. COOTE: What part of this item is for salaries?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I believe Mr. Wilson has reached his maximum; I think his salary is \$5,200.

Item agreed to.

Farm economics, including agricultural co-operative marketing, \$10,000.

Mr. GARDINER: I notice this is a new item. Will the minister explain?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This matter has been under discussion for several years; it has been more or less in the public mind, and since cooperative marketing is becoming more popular and is practiced more and more throughout Canada it was felt by my staff and myself that it was time we had a central organization, a sort of clearing house for these activities, since some of these organizations are now becoming Dominion-wide and someone should be in charge of work of this kind. Up to quite recently this work has been of a provincial character, but there are now several Dominion-wide cooperative concerns, such as the Cooperative Livestock Growers' Association, the Cooperative Wool Growers' Association and others, and there are a great many activities which necessitate a Dominion branch in charge of that work, in cooperation with the different provincial authorities.

In a word I believe that is the object of this item. We are now advertising for a director for this work, and we hope to secure the services of some well qualified man. Of course this is a Civil Service Commission appointment and will take some time to complete, but we hope the appointment will be made before the end of July. Our intention is to have a properly qualified man commence work with a survey of these activities in order to find out all the different aspects. There are many cooperative activities being carried on; some of them are stock companies, some are pools of a voluntary nature, some have contracts for three or five years, and in British Columbia there is one organization of a more or less compulsory nature, so a survey will be necessary in order to get a line on this work, since we realize that we cannot have similarity in such a large country as Canada.

Mr. COOTE: Will the minister tell us what will be the title of this official?