

from Sweden. Experiments were carried on with the breed for, I believe, about four years. Finally it was found that they displayed no sufficient advantages over the Yorkshire type, which had been fairly widely distributed over Canada, to warrant the department going further with the experiments and making an additional distribution of those hogs throughout the country. In other words, it was found that the Yorkshire is suiting the purpose in Canada so well that it would not be wise to confuse people by encouraging them to produce and maintain another variety.

Mr. FAIR: Thank you.

Mr. HATFIELD: I understood that some years ago all experiments were made at the Ottawa farm. That system was changed a few years ago, and at the present time experiments are made at various branch farms throughout Canada for the whole Dominion—on potatoes at Fredericton; on wheat, in the west; in respect of horticulture, on the Ontario branch farms. In view of that system, what is the reason for the increase in acreage of the central experimental farm?

Mr. GARDINER: As I stated a moment ago, special work is being carried on at Fredericton with regard to potatoes, but some intensive experimentation is being carried on at the central experimental farm in connection with all the different varieties of farm products. That is possibly on account of the fact that different kinds of farm products are produced in this section of the dominion.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: A development in northern Saskatchewan which during recent years has been changing agricultural economy has been the phenomenal increase in the growth of alfalfa. Can the minister give us an idea of the experiments that are taking place in that direction and say whether a new hardy alfalfa seed is being developed and, further, whether any of the institutional farms are being used for experimental purposes in that regard?

Mr. GARDINER: The laboratory at Saskatoon has developed a new type of alfalfa which is suited to that section of the country, and up in the area near White Fox, and to the north of Nipawin, which is in the north-eastern section of Saskatchewan, there has developed in the last few years an industry associated with the growing of alfalfa seed, very much as in certain sections of the east development has taken place where the flax seed is grown even for use in Ireland. In the section to which I refer they are producing alfalfa seed which is being sold down through

[Mr. Gardiner.]

the American states to the south and in certain sections of western Canada and in the east as well.

Mr. FAIR: From time to time applications are invited for positions that become vacant at the central experimental farm. In the notices sent out certain minimum and maximum salaries are set out, and I have been informed that after applicants have been accepted they are not paid the minimum specified in the applications. I should like to know whether this report is correct, and, if so, why applicants are not paid the stated minimum.

Mr. GARDINER: I presume the reference is to part-time or temporary graduate employees who do come in at lower rates sometimes than those indicated in the civil service list, but anyone who applies in the usual course under the civil service commission for one of the permanent positions in the department is paid the minimum and maximum salary, starting with the minimum and gradually rising to the other.

Mr. FAIR: Has there been any dissatisfaction at the farm during the past twelve months or so in that regard?

Mr. GARDINER: There has been no dissatisfaction that has been sufficiently serious to have been brought to my attention. I cannot say that there is no one working for the department from one end of Canada to the other who is dissatisfied with his or her salary, but there has been no general dissatisfaction.

Mr. FAIR: I was referring only to the central experimental farm, and if the information is incorrect I shall be glad to be told so.

Mr. GARDINER: There may be some who are not satisfied; I am not in a position to say. There may be some who have accepted positions and who may have qualifications that would entitle them to a higher position, but they have applied for work and have been offered work at a certain rate of pay, and work which would properly pay the rate offered to them. They may not be satisfied; I do not know. If they are not, it is possible we could get someone else to take their place.

Mr. FAIR: The point is that the positions are advertised at certain minimum and maximum rates, and after the applicant has been appointed he receives less than the minimum specified.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not know of any such cases, but there may be some. You could not have a staff of the size of ours without having someone who would be dissatisfied with his salary.