

would be the proper time to bring up the question whether we are receiving benefits corresponding with the expenditure involved in keeping up these farms. If the House thinks we are not receiving sufficient benefit the item, of course, should be struck out and the farms closed up, but personally I feel that the experimental farms are one of the last things that we should curtail expenditure on.

Mr. COPP: I can readily understand that applications have been made by the gentlemen who have charge of these farms. If all the managers and superintendents had the same viewpoint as the managers and superintendents of the farms I know, they would ask for \$7,000,000 just as readily as for \$7,000. What repairs are to be made to buildings on the experimental station at Fredericton, New Brunswick?

Mr. J. D. REID: Implement and feed storage shed, \$3,000. I think my hon. friend will agree that that amount should be spent, if machinery has to be stored. Repairs to the superintendent's house \$500, repairs to Peter's barn \$500, general repairs \$1,000, emergency repairs \$500.

Mr. COPP: I think he might very well store his machinery in the cellar he built to store roots in. That might also hold grain. I repeat, these gentlemen would just as soon ask for \$7,000,000 as for \$7,000, and it would take no more postage to ask for the larger amount. If you gave them \$7,000,000, they would squander it just as they squander what you vote for them. I still insist that the minister has not given the slightest reason why this item should pass the committee at the present time. The people of this country are not in a mood to vote money to be handed over to these gentlemen who are not in any way responsible to any person, and who will spend it in the lavish and extravagant way they have been spending money on these farms. My hon. friend says there is a difference of opinion as to the value of experimental farms. I have no doubt there is, but there is no difference, or should be no difference, in the minds of hon. gentlemen as to the necessity for economy in the operation of these farms, and I do not believe there is a member of this House who knows how these farms are operated who will say that there is not extravagance and waste in their operation. I do not believe the people are getting benefit corresponding with the amount of money expended. I do not say, close up these farms; but it seems to me at the present time we should get along

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

for one year without expending \$200,000 on a place to store machinery. The farmers throughout his Dominion have not stone warehouses in which to store their machinery. They have to put their machinery in their barn, which may not be quite so convenient, but nevertheless they have to do it. Any one who has seen these branch stations, and the machinery they have, knows that they can store the machinery in their present buildings. The experimental farm at Fredericton can take care of all their machinery in buildings they now have, and the superintendent's house might very well get along without these extraordinary repairs, just as other people's houses throughout this Dominion have to go without repairs, on account of the high cost of labour and materials at the present time. It is all very well for the superintendent of the farm. I know of some experimental stations where the land was bought and buildings erected just to give a man a job, and now we are called upon to expend \$50,000 a year to keep a job for this gentleman. Now, he says: My house is not just as it should be; and perhaps I want oak floors in my house, and mahogany finish. So the people are called upon year after year to hand over \$50,000 for this gentleman. Now we are asked to vote \$200,000 to repair these stations and buy a little furniture and make their places look natty and neat at the expense of the country, while the ordinary people have to exercise economy and do without these things.

Flags for Dominion Public Buildings, \$5,000.

Mr. CAHILL: Would the minister explain this item?

Mr. J. D. REID: The Public Works Department buys flags for all the public buildings throughout the Dominion.

Mr. CAHILL: What flag do they use?

Mr. J. D. REID: The Union Jack.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Not the Irish Republic flag?

Mr. J. D. REID: No, just the Union Jack.

Mr. COPP: Did you supply one for Sackville public building?

Mr. J. D. REID: Every public building is supposed to have a flag.

Mr. COPP: I would suggest that you send down a flag flying a signal of distress for the Sackville post office.