

SUPPLY.

Experimental farms, \$73,500.

Mr. U. WILSON. I think there was a distinct arrangement that we should take up immigration.

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Minister of Agriculture). The Finance Minister asked me to go on but I am quite willing to give place if the Minister of the Interior is here.

Mr. U. WILSON. Have you many items?

Mr. FISHER. Just the one item. The item is reduced as will be seen; that is due to the same cause as in other cases, the transference of salaries here in Ottawa to the civil government list.

Mr. DANIEL. What success has been achieved in connection with the Nappan experimental farm?

Mr. FISHER. The Nappan farm is for the benefit of the maritime provinces. It is situated close to the boundary line close to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The farm has been managed as a stock farm. Some years ago we ran it chiefly for dairying but we were very unfortunate some three or four years ago in getting tuberculosis into the herd and we were obliged to take the whole herd away. We had not been very successful in arousing the interest of the people of that neighbourhood in dairying and we thought it was better for a few years to run the farm more as a beef producing farm than to revert to dairying. Accordingly we have lately been feeding steers there for beef production and our experiments have been more in connection with that branch. We have been able to show that beef can be produced most successfully in Nova Scotia, and I think I may say in the maritime provinces generally at a fair profit although the high price of feed during the last two winters, especially last winter, has interfered with it. And I think that farmers generally in the maritime provinces have suffered from this same trouble. We have also kept a small flock of sheep there but the farm does not seem to be particularly adapted for sheep raising.

Mr. DANIEL. Is it chiefly low lying land, meadow land?

Mr. FISHER. No, it is both dyke land and upland. The land on the farm is not of a high quality. I think that is peculiar rather to that farm than to the whole region but undoubtedly the farm itself is not very fertile. We have also been carrying on fruit experiments there and have shown that in that part of Nova Scotia successful apple growing can be carried on. We have two orchards, one in the open, and the other in a piece of woods which has been

Mr. HENDERSON.

cleared for that purpose so that that orchard is sheltered by the surrounding woods, and it has been found that the sheltered orchard is perhaps the more successful, although even the other one has been made successful.

Mr. DANIEL. What effort is being made to disseminate information of the results obtained from the farm?

Mr. FISHER. The reports, of course, appear in the regular farm reports and then in addition to that there is a special report of that farm bound separately which is sent out to farmers who do not care to have the full report of all the experimental farms. In addition to that we have encouraged excursions to the farms and every summer several excursions come from the maritime provinces and facilities are given for visiting the farm.

Mr. DANIEL. Is there much publicity given to that; this is the first time I have heard of it?

Mr. FISHER. It is generally known in the maritime provinces. The manager of the Nappan farm always visits the fat stock show at Amherst and we send representatives to the several exhibitions in the maritime provinces.

Mr. DANIEL. In New Brunswick, where the attention of the farmers is divided between lumbering and farming, I have always thought that there should be a means of educating the farmers in the most successful methods of agriculture. If this government could in any way spread abroad a knowledge of the soils and of the crops best suited to them, it would be of great advantage to the people. In Ontario and Quebec there are agricultural colleges, but I do not think there are any such institutions in the maritime provinces. When the government does begin to establish agricultural colleges I trust they will at the very earliest opportunity direct their attention to New Brunswick.

Mr. FISHER. The experimental farms are not educational institutions in the sense of having students. That class of agricultural education, as all education, is in the hands of the provincial authorities. Nova Scotia has a very good agricultural college at Truro and although New Brunswick has no regular agricultural college it has a very good dairy school at Sussex, at which every winter one of the departmental officers helps in the course of instruction. We have experimental plots at the farm at Nappan and visitors see the results of the different methods of cultivating the different varieties of crops. We have been making experiments in the growing of forage crops which were formerly not much known in the maritime provinces. Our manager,