

Mr. NICHOLSON: It would be an interesting type of experiment for this branch to carry on, to see whether one of their farms can be carried on upon a profitable basis over a period of years.

Mr. GARDINER: There are what are called major and minor activities of the field husbandry branch. Under minor activities are included farm machinery investigations, to determine the type of machinery which is most useful on certain kinds of soil. Weed eradication is another activity. Also investigations are carried on of the cost of producing and the methods of harvesting and storing crops. The costs of all phases of these operations are taken under consideration in those investigations. Also there are silage production and meteorological studies. All these are known as minor activities. The experimental and investigational work constitutes the major activities.

Mr. HATFIELD: What is the acreage of the central experimental farm in Ottawa?

Mr. GARDINER: There are 827 acres owned and 350 acres leased.

Mr. HATFIELD: Is \$626,000 the amount of the loss, or was there some revenue?

Mr. GARDINER: That is the cost of carrying on the experiments on that land.

Mr. HATFIELD: What was the revenue?

Mr. GARDINER: I stated the revenue a few moments ago—\$27,958.36.

Mr. McIVOR: There is an experimental substation in our district. I do not know whether it yields any cash profit, but it would be hard to overestimate the value of the work which has been done in that community, especially through the lessons which have been learned by young farmers. It is a credit to the community and to the department.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I notice an item, "senior assistant architect, \$2,880." Last year there was provision for an assistant architect with a salary of \$2,640. Has a promotion been made?

Mr. GARDINER: The position of senior assistant architect is vacant and has been vacant since last year.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Is the senior assistant architect the same person who was the assistant architect?

Mr. GARDINER: The assistant architect has been moved up to the position of senior assistant, and the assistant's position has not been filled.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. WRIGHT: Would the minister explain the reason for an increase of \$40,000 in the item, "temporary assistance", on page 65 of the estimates? It seems a large increase.

Mr. GARDINER: Permanent salaries, reclassification, \$30,000; temporary salaries, reclassification of new positions, \$39,480. The explanation is this. The labouring staff has been reclassified this year. Those staffs which before were known as labourers are now temporaries.

Mr. HATFIELD: Rents have been increased. What is the reason? Feed last year was \$20,000; it has been reduced to \$17,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Of the lands operated by the central experimental farm 827 acres are owned and 350 acres rented.

Mr. HATFIELD: Is it necessary to buy feed?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, feed would have to be purchased. There are feed products of different kinds not grown on the farms but used for experimental purposes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): With regard to the general expenditure, the permanent staff at the central experimental farm has been increased from 91 to 102, notwithstanding that three quite important positions have not been filled, and there seems to be one new position, that of soil specialist, which was not there before. There is a very large increase in the cost and some increase in the number of agricultural scientists. On the whole, whatever saving there is in the department seems to be at the expense of common labourers, and if we were to take into account the cut in wages for ordinary labour, it would be found that the grant this year is very much higher than it was last year. In other words, the difference between \$164,000 and \$237,000 is much greater than the total reduction in the vote, which is only \$37,515. We seem to be spending more money than usual for high-class scientific men and letting out a lot of labour to swell the unemployment relief roll.

Mr. GARDINER: The increase is explained for the most part by the reclassification of those who were on wages before. Two temporaries are increased. The suggestion that much of the saving will be in labour is correct. As I stated at the beginning of the discussion, some of the work that is being done away with this year, such as preparation for the chrysanthemum show, is summer labour, and since we are not carrying that on, we shall not be engaging as much labour in the summer as previously.