

gard to the position of a farmer. I am a farmer myself, and as extensive a one as there is in the county of Lunenburg, and as agricultural matters come before me frequently. I think it only right I should make reference to them in this House. With regard to the distribution of seed grain, I have known the results to be very beneficial to persons receiving them in the county of Lunenburg. They have found the grain distributed from the Experimental Farm to result most profitably to them, and instead of repeating the old seed from year to year they have put in new varieties with good results. I believe that the art and knowledge of agriculture might be advanced very considerably if a greater number of reports of the Experimental Farm were circulated. At present the number distributed is too limited, and for the last few years I have been unable to get such numbers of these reports as I considered necessary in the interests of the country. If the vote is at present too limited, then I would suggest to the Minister of Agriculture that he should increase it so that we may spread the knowledge of agriculture as widely as we possibly can. I believe in agricultural stations in the different districts in this Dominion, say one in the smaller provinces and two in the larger provinces. The Minister referred to them as illustration stations. I believe that they would be excellent educators for the agriculturists, and they would advance the knowledge of farming more rapidly than by having this one central experimental farm alone, to which only members of Parliament and a comparative few others have access. If at these experimental stations a farmer could see with his own eye what is being done, it would be a better educator than even the distribution of books and reports. In this way the farmers of the different sections of the country, by travelling a comparatively short distance to a station would see for themselves practical farming operations carried out in the most scientific manner, and with such lessons so acquired would show good practical results on their private farms in a very short time. With views of this sort, if they could be carried out, by employing additional hands, I feel satisfied that we are doing an excellent work, and that the money so granted by the Government could not be expended in any better way.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I was very much interested in the reference to the apiary, and if the Minister of Agriculture has serious intentions of developing that line of farming, I could refer him with confidence to the Minister of Finance and the Premier of Nova Scotia, who would recommend him a man most suitable to take charge of anything of that kind in the province of Nova Scotia. I rose particularly to ask why it became necessary to dispense with the services of Mr. Forrest, who was the man in charge of the Nappan farm?

Mr. KAULBACH.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. When I need an apiarist, I shall be very glad to apply to the Minister of Finance and would be very happy if I can find one in Nova Scotia to do the work. I may say, incidentally, that we sent the other day several swarms to the farm at Nappan, where Mr. Robertson, the new man, is an expert in bee culture as well as dairying. With regard to Mr. Forrest, when I went to Nappan first, after taking office, I found the stock in a condition which did not reflect credit on the Government or the farm. I had a long talk with Mr. Forrest, and came to the deliberate conclusion that he could not carry out the work I wanted done at Nappan, and therefore requested his resignation. I need a man there who is an expert in dairying, and on whom I could depend to carry out the plans and arrangements I wish to make. I did not think Mr. Forrest could do so, and I chose a man who seemed to me eminently competent for that purpose.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Were the animals diseased?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, but they were in bad order, badly kept and badly handled.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Was Mr. Forrest called upon to make an explanation, and what was his explanation?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I could not find any explanation that would justify the condition in which the animals were. I was informed by him and the herdsman in charge of the barns, that he had been feeding the cattle a large quantity of grain in the months of June and July, when there is abundant pasture, and the cattle are out on grass, and in the fall of the year, when the grass is short, he had no grain to feed them with. A man who will do that is not fit to take charge of a farm.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Was there any investigation or was it just the hon. gentleman's own impression that induced him to dispense with Mr. Forrest's services?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There was no inquiry. I discussed the matter with Professor Robertson, and acted on my own responsibility.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Was Mr. Forrest heard at all?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I wrote to him asking for his resignation, and he wrote back that he would not resign, and I then dispensed with his services.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He was not asked for any explanation?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think so.