

the future, when the Minister of Agriculture is asked a question by any member of this House, he will be in a position to give a decided answer in regard to expenditure. I had trouble in that regard the other day. Hon. members to my left asked several questions and in each case he did not refuse to answer but quibbled around in order to avoid answering. He would never give a decided answer as to the cost of a particular department. I do not wish to criticize him too much, but he deserves a little criticism in that line. I do not think he deserves criticism along the lines of entomology because he has no knowledge of that subject. He could not be expected to have any knowledge, but in future I hope the minister will give a decided answer when he is asked a pointed question and be candid with the House because that is something he is lacking in.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. SPENCE: If I am out of order I will apologize, but three days ago, I tried to get information regarding the cost of the central farm at Ottawa, and up to the present time I have not been able to get an answer. I think the item should either be abandoned or put through.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I have to admit, Mr. Chairman, that I certainly do not know all about entomology but I think I can tell my hon. friend that pathologists have been appointed in connection with that subject. I suppose he never heard of such a thing as a plant pathologist.

Mr. SPENCE: Oh, yes.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: So that I have the satisfaction of knowing there is one hon. member who knows less than I do.

Mr. SPENCE: I wish to say—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The hon. gentleman will not feel sore about it. I was not saying very much, you know.

The hon. gentleman from Bow River (Mr. Garland) asked a question in regard to the entomological end of the vote, by provinces, and two members of my staff have prepared a statement. I will give the figures by provinces leaving out the odd figures. They are as follows:

New Brunswick..	\$21,000
Nova Scotia..	24,000
Quebec..	14,000
Ontario..	42,000
Manitoba..	7,000
Saskatchewan..	11,000
Alberta..	11,000
British Columbia..	19,000

(Mr. Spence.)

These are the sums spent for the respective provinces in connection with the entomological end.

Mr. TOLMIE: I am very much interested in what has been said this afternoon concerning the importance of the seed potato trade. This is a business that not only interests the Maritime provinces, but also the province on the Pacific coast. I would very much regret it if there is to be any laxity in the regulations governing seed potatoes. We are building up a good market, and it must be maintained at all costs, and strict grading and strict inspection of potatoes kept up, so that the certificate from the government which accompanies them will have some value and be a guarantee of their quality. As regards the co-operation of the Dominion and the provincial departments, the minister might inform the committee what precautions are taken to obviate overlapping, and what line of demarcation exists between provincial operations and those of the federal department. In view of the great importance of this seed potato trade, it would be interesting to know what increase has taken place in recent years. Regarding inspection and grading generally, if we are to compete in the export markets of the world with countries where a careful system of grading and inspection is observed, such for instance as New Zealand, Denmark and other places on the European continent, Canada will have to be as strict with the goods she exports as these countries are. As regards the question of contagious diseases not only of animals but of plants as well, and the work of entomology generally, it simply means that we cannot afford to let go. No matter how much we may talk in this House, no matter what politics we may play in the country, the bacteria will be as active as ever; and it is imperative for us to meet the situation. I am quite sure that if there is any laxity in carrying out the regulations we shall not retain the high record which we have to-day for the health of Canadian cattle and the quality of Canadian products.

Item agreed to.

Dairying, \$230,000.

Mr. CAMPBELL: The amount of money spent under this head in 1922 was \$147,000 and in 1923 \$158,000. What is the explanation for the increase?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: There is no increase over the vote of last year.

Mr. CAMPBELL: I am referring to the actual amount spent last year which, accord-