

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. None of it will go for paying the expense of supplying these trees to the Interior Department. Some of it now does go for the distribution of trees, as has been the case for years, and that same kind of distribution will be continued, but that is different from the distribution carried on by Mr. Stewart for the Interior Department. In answer to my hon. friend from Lennox (Mr. Wilson), I wish to say that I have found a statement of the amount of tree seed, and trees distributed from the Brandon farm last year. The following is the distribution: Six hundred bags of maple seed, of one pound each; three hundred and sixty-one packages of seedling trees containing various numbers of box elders, cottonwood, caragana arborescens, plum seedlings and artemisia cuttings.

Mr. WILSON. These were distributed in the North-west?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. INGRAM. In the Auditor General's Report (D-31) there is an amount of \$395.46 for distribution of trees from the Brandon Experimental Farm. Do these trees go to farmers in that neighbourhood?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That was the cost of the distribution which was carried on at Brandon. These tree seeds and seedling trees are sent out through the province of Manitoba in the same way as seed grain is sent out all over the country from the experimental farm here.

Mr. INGRAM. Then I understand that the Department of Agriculture does not intend to go any further than it is doing now?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, the same kind of work.

Mr. INGRAM. But the Department of the Interior intends to inaugurate a system of planting wind-breaks for the farmers of the North-west, and the government is to pay for the trees for that purpose?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is a detail of the work as to which I am not in a position to give information to the committee, because it belongs to my colleague's department. While I have talked the matter over with him, I have not under my hand the details as to how the work is to be done.

Mr. MONK. When we come to Mr. Stewart's mission in the North-west, the Minister of Agriculture reminds me of a character in one of Dicken's novels, who, whenever asked a question, replied: 'You must really know what you want to know.' I suppose this new line which is to be taken up on the experimental farms of the North-west has not been taken up without a previous under-

standing with the Department of the Interior as to the extent to which this tree-planting would be carried as an experiment in favour of the farmers of the North-west. What is the agreement arrived at as to that, and what are the trees which at the present moment are being nursed on the farms to serve as wind-breaks.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. As to the exact extent of this work, I would have to inquire of Professor Saunders. I left the matter in his and Mr. Stewart's hands for mutual arrangement. In the conversation I had with him, it was considered that four or five acres of tree seed would be planted at each of these farms this spring. The hon. gentleman asks what trees are at present on the farms for this purpose. There are none. That work is just beginning. We have been doing this work for years, and a list of the trees that are planted appears in the reports of the farm from year to year.

Mr. MONK. What is the tree Mr. Stewart has recommended?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot tell exactly. We are going to plant two or three different kinds, we think. The Manitoba maple and the cottonwood have been mentioned; but I would not undertake from casual conversation to give the committee a list of the trees that are to be started. That is under discussion between Professor Saunders and Mr. Stewart.

Mr. MONK. Then it amounts to this, that we are entering into this work without knowing the extent to which it is to be carried or what trees are to be planted. I do not think it is fair for the minister to ask us for this vote without giving that information.

Mr. SPROULE. It looks like a vote of want of confidence in the Minister of Agriculture by the Minister of the Interior. The hon. gentleman tells us that his department have carried on that work for some years, but I understood that it was comparatively a failure—why? Because it was not done on intelligent lines. Now the work is to be taken out of his hands by the Minister of the Interior. The hon. gentleman's department will do the menial work of planting seeds, but as soon as the trees are above the ground the Minister of the Interior will take charge of them and will become the medium between the farm and the farmers. That is the sum and substance of the information we have had up to the present. Would the minister tell us about the number of stock on these farms, and what experiments are being carried on generally?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The annual report of the farms gives full details of the number of head of animals of all kinds on each farm. I could look up the report, and give it to the committee if

Mr. INGRAM.