

Supply—Agriculture

ture, so far as western Canada and Canada as a whole is concerned, than the erection of this building and the leasing of a part of it to an organization such as the registered seed growers of Saskatchewan.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): Will this plant be available for the use of all the farmers of Saskatchewan?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): Not only for those who happen to belong to the pool?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It requires only a dollar to belong to the organization. Anyone who is not a member, desiring to ship in a car of seed, can pay a dollar and automatically become a member.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): How much space in the building does the government intend to use?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have distributed between 10,000 and 12,000 bushels this year and we may require between 15,000 and 20,000 more.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): What is the total capacity?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: One hundred thousand bushels.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): And it is proposed to lease the remaining capacity?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): I consider this a good move but it should be undertaken by the provincial government. I know that in the eastern provinces the seed cleaning plants have been aided with provincial money, and I am at a loss to know why the provinces which have helped seed cleaning plants should be asked to contribute towards a seed cleaning plant for Saskatchewan or for the three prairie provinces. The hon. member for Pontiac suggests that there is need of stimulation along certain lines in Saskatchewan. I notice that a part of the vote goes to fertilizer control. What is the nature of that control, what is the number of inspectors, and so forth?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Perhaps I might make a few observations regarding the necessity for better seed throughout Canada as well as in the west. During the war there was a good deal of laxity in the matter of quality of production. The demand abroad for food of all kinds, including meats, was so keen that almost anything went, with the result

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that bacon, for instance, deteriorated. The same was true of many of the other farm products, among others grain; because grain was grain and, as I say, everything seemed to go. Shortly after the war, however, an agitation began, to get back once more to quality, and this department, before I became minister, initiated a policy in that direction, in order to place production on a quality basis. And the quality of seed was taken into consideration. We instituted four or five years ago a policy which did not require any particular additional expenditure, except for the conversion to this special purpose of the subventions which had been given to seed exhibitions in the past. Wherever it was desired to have a seed cleaning plant in lieu of the seed grant for exhibition purposes, we established these small cleaning plants. This was done right across Canada from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island. There are eight or ten of these plants assisted in various ways in Ontario—small plants costing from \$1,000 to \$1,500 apiece. There is also one in Prince Edward Island, and there is another in British Columbia. Let me try to show how general was the demand that someone should take a forward step of this kind. After all the foundation of satisfactory cereals lies in the improvement of seed: like begets like, other things being equal. With that principle in mind, the people throughout the country who were either actively engaged in the business or who were looking on interestedly, realizing the importance of the matter, have been passing resolutions urging the desirability of such action. For example, the National Research Council of Canada recently passed a resolution recommending the establishment of seed warehouses for collecting and distributing seed of approved varieties. This resolution states that undoubtedly the use of good seed would go further than any other single factor in improving the quality of the wheat crop. And the agriculture committee of this house, at page 7 of their report last year, made this recommendation:

In order that the high quality of our export wheat be maintained, and in order to discourage, as far as possible, the growth of undesirable varieties of wheat, we would urge that one or more seed warehouses be established for the purpose of collecting and distributing seed of approved varieties, and that an experimental flour mill of sufficient size be established in order that experimental work in milling and baking may be conducted on a scale that will give results in line with those obtained in commercial mills.

Part of that recommendation is carried out under this vote; the first step in carrying out