

Supply—Agriculture

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: So would we.

Mr. Ricard: Why do you not show some evidence of it?

Mr. Hamilton: The hon. member for Assiniboia has apparently not learned when he has taken a trimming.

Mr. Argue: There is no trimming in this. All your freeloaders for that trip are in trouble.

Mr. Hamilton: Another "go-lightly" here speaking up.

The main estimates tabled for the Department of Agriculture at \$155 million are about \$21.7 million less than comparable estimates for 1961-62. However, \$19.4 million of this decrease is accounted for by the statutory items related to carrying costs of temporary wheat reserves and payments in connection with the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. Provision has been made for the maintenance of full services to the public in the important fields of grading, inspection, research and development, and in fact to launch certain new activities in the interests of Canadian agriculture. The main reductions in estimates to be voted are in the area of contributions, grants and subsidies. Total salaries and wages are somewhat lower, reflecting measures taken to contain staff establishments at minimum levels consistent with adequate service to the public.

Staff have been provided in departmental administration to direct the development of the ARDA program, and good progress is being made as reported to this house from time to time. The department's information services have been augmented with specialized writers and editors to improve the dissemination of farm news and to clearly inform the farming public on the purposes and effects of departmental policies and programs. An electronic computer system has been installed to aid in the administration of the agricultural stabilization program and accelerate calculations of research data.

Certain organizational changes are reflected in these estimates. In the research branch, the insect pathology research institute at Sault Ste. Marie has been transferred to the Department of Forestry. The Delhi tobacco substation has assumed the status of an experimental farm and a small experimental farm is being established at Fort William. Of particular significance is the establishment of a food research institute at Ottawa. This institute, with a professional staff of 20, is undertaking important basic and applied research to investigate factors responsible

for quality in Canadian foods with the objective of increasing acceptability on the domestic and export markets. New uses for conventional foods and development of new products as well as the storage and handling of all food commodities will be major aspects of these investigations.

In the production and marketing branch, the health of animals division is extending meat inspection services to new subdistricts for the animal contagious diseases control program and is intensifying research in animal diseases. A reduction in these estimates has been achieved through a change in policy involving herd testing for listed and accredited herds falling within the brucellosis and tuberculosis area control programs. Since herds covered in the area control programs need no longer be individually tested under the former herd policy, staff previously used for this work have been reassigned to meet more pressing needs.

The capital portion of these estimates, construction of buildings and works and acquisition of equipment, is some \$3.8 million higher than in 1961-62 but the normal distribution of these funds has been altered with a higher proportion allocated to the continuing of main projects underway. These include the South Saskatchewan river dam and other important P.F.R.A. projects involving water storage and irrigation. Provision for small dams and dugouts and community projects undertaken to offset the effects of drought has increased significantly in 1962-63, to the extent of \$1,284,900, or 84.4 per cent. In the research branch, a major new laboratory of advanced design is under construction at the experimental farm in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Under the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act, the main construction program will terminate in 1962-63 with the practical completion of the Annapolis river dam and other major projects and works affording protection to approximately 80,000 acres of marshland.

Mr. Chairman, this is a summary of the highlights of the estimates for 1962-63, and I should like to remind the committee that the year we are discussing is about half over. I should like to get the estimates through so that we may move on to get to the estimates for the next year as soon as possible.

Mr. Pickersgill: There is one question I wish to put to the minister. I feel sure that all members on both sides of the house, after the statement made yesterday by the Prime Minister at the opening of the sitting, would not wish to pass item No. 1 of the minister's estimates until he gives us a careful and detailed statement of the effect of the Glassco-McCutcheon axe on his department. We