

tion are certified and carefully inspected. There are two field inspections; there is a careful bin inspection, and then another inspection before the bags are sewed and tagged. The growing of seed potatoes is really a new industry with us, it is just in its infancy; and we would like to have any assistance that could possibly be given. There is only a very limited time between the digging and marketing of the potatoes, and our difficulties have to do with transportation and inspection. I understand the department is now looking into the matter of a further reduction of freight rates on certified seed potatoes. This is moving in the right direction and we would like to have further assurances that this concession will go through. I would ask if it is the intention of the department to fix a fee for the inspection work in connection with seed potatoes which will take care of the cost? Is it intended to introduce regulations under which a charge will be made to the associations for inspectors, or is this work to be carried on by the officials of the department?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That is a question. We have been considering for the last year whether this inspection service should be carried at the expense of the men who get the service or not. In the inspection of our wheat out in the West every car carries, I think, a charge of ninety cents. It used to be sixty-five cents but the cars are larger now and it really amounts to about the same. That charge largely carries the expense of inspection. Now whether or not that system should be carried out all along the line I have some doubt. In regard to the popular work that means so much to the people, especially at a time like this when every charge places a little bit more on the producer's shoulders, we hesitate to do this. I do not know that it can be claimed that it is not a just charge. When you receive a service why should you not pay for it? However, the work is largely educational and as the hon member for Hants (Mr. Martell) indicated, when there are still some doubting Thomases throughout the country as to the value of such services, we feel that we cannot impose such a charge. The same question has been raised in regard to the inspection and grading of cheese and butter, which is assuming large proportions and involving large expense to the country. When I fail to get a sufficient vote to carry on this class of educational work, we shall have nothing else left but to give up the work or else impose a charge on every one that receives a service. In older countries than Canada, I understand, that is the practice, each service

[Mr. A. E. MacLean.]

carries itself; but imagine trying to impose a fee at this time in respect of the grading of hogs or the grading of eggs? The work has not yet become sufficiently established to warrant us in irritating the people further by passing new regulations for the imposition of a fee. In reply to the question of my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island (Mr. MacLean) I may say,—not for the present.

Mr. MICHAUD: On the 25th March last I put a question on the order paper as follows:

1. At whose request or demand does the Canadian Horticultural Council propose to change the grading of potatoes in the province of New Brunswick?
2. Is the government aware of any complaints made about the present grading of potatoes in said province?
3. If so, who made said complaints?

I received the following answer:

1. The Canadian Horticultural Council has no jurisdiction over the matter or changing potato grades.
2. No.
3. Answered by No. 2.

We in the province of New Brunswick are very anxious to find out how far the Canadian Horticultural Council can go in the matter of grading potatoes in that province.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think, Mr. Chairman, the answer is there although it might be elaborated. This is a very important body of men who have to do with horticulture. Their work also extends to vegetables, including potatoes, and I understand they did make certain recommendations with respect to this matter.

Mr. CALDWELL: Do I understand that potatoes come under the heading of "horticulture?"

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They are usually considered as coming under that head, not because of the bloom, but fruit and vegetables are usually grouped together, and fruit comes under the horticulture class. But this body, I may say, like any other body, I think, have considered themselves of sufficient importance and with sufficient knowledge of the business to make a recommendation, just as my hon. friend might make a recommendation, suggesting a change. But as we get recommendations from all over the country, from organizations and from individuals, I presume this recommendation may have come in from them. But the reason this impression has gone abroad, I think, is that one of the officers of the Horticultural Council is also an officer of the Fruit branch, and because of that fact possibly it was thought the recommendation came from them.