

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand this comes under the next vote. In the meantime we will have the item looked up.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I desire to have the information before the item carries. It is in the vote on entomology. The next item is "Administration of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act." I would like information as to the cost of building these mahogany cases. It appears that two years ago \$2,000 was expended under this item. This year \$3,500 is to be spent. Last year the item was unknown, but apparently the minister is going into it now. I think he will find that about \$7,500 was spent the last three years for the casings for additions made annually to the collection of these bugs. I would like a little further explanation why these casings cost so much. Would it not be better to do it a little cheaper? Can we not do away with the mahogany and replace with soft wood, and do away with the steel?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand these are very expensively constructed casings, because they have to be very tight and close-fitting. The hon. member asks why mahogany or why steel? Well, there are certain qualities in wood that in their very nature are repelling to insect life. That is one of the reasons, of course. My hon. friend has heard of cedar being repelling. I do not know as much about mahogany as I do about cedar, but I presume it is the same thing.

Mr. SPENCER: Which is the most expensive, mahogany or steel? Do you sometimes use one and sometimes the other?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Steel cases are more expensive.

Mr. GARDINER: What was spent last year on these cases?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand, \$2,014 was spent. We have no purpose in stacking up a lot of useless cases. A lot of this work is of such a character that unless it is done carefully it need not be done.

Mr. GARDINER: I find in this report there were 302 of these insect cases procured in 1923. That seems to be a tremendous number of cases for this particular purpose.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We are adding a certain amount to it every year, in order to complete it.

Mr. MILNE: Can the minister give us any idea of what proportion of the money spent

[Mr. Gardiner.]

for entomology is spent on insects that are of economic importance?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand about 95 per cent.

Item agreed to.

Administration of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act, \$310,000.

Mr. HANSON: About how much was spent last year, and what was the nature of the work carried on in the province of New Brunswick? I understand the department has a small laboratory at Fredericton. Dr. Tothill is in charge of that. I should like to know the nature of the work done last year. Dr. Tothill is a very excellent official, and there is a very grave danger of losing his services to our friends to the south, unless he is properly remunerated.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand the work of that federal laboratory was largely connected with the spruce bud-worm and brown-tail moth. There is a small provincial laboratory, just a little shack, where I think they were pursuing an investigation in connection with a fungus disease of the cactus apple-blossom. I do not know whether they thought we were not prosecuting the work sufficiently rapidly. I scarcely know why the provincial government took it up, but apparently the ravages of that little fungus were so great that they thought it necessary to do this additional work. I think the work could be merged. I understand the laboratory was located somewhere down town in Fredericton, and it was suggested it should be moved to the experimental farm. That is what they had in mind, I think. Well, it is like a good many other activities; we have not the necessary money to build a laboratory and move it to the experimental farm, where I think its usefulness would be almost double.

Mr. HANSON: About how much of a staff have you there, and what is the annual expenditure? And, now that the brown-tail moth and the bud-worm are no longer with us, to what are they directing their attention?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The brown-tail moth attacks the apples.

Mr. HANSON: The hon. gentleman did not pay attention to what I said. Now that the brown-tail moth is no longer with us, and the spruce bud-worm has worked out his usefulness or its uselessness, what functions does the laboratory perform? Along what line of endeavour are they working. How large is the staff, and how much money has been spent?