

Supply—Agriculture

the means of doing it now is much more highly developed and they have more successful means of doing it than they had a few years ago. This department is making a survey to determine what is likely to be the position next year, but that survey is not yet completed. There is therefore no information that I can give out which would be of any great help at the present time. It may be that before the session is over, and maybe before we are through with these estimates, we shall have a report which I could give to the committee. But at the moment it does not exist.

Mr. Ross (Souris): I hope the minister will give us that information. His officials now make surveys in the different districts, and it would be beneficial if, when he has the report, he would at some time give the committee the benefit of the surveys.

Item agreed to.

Science service—

11. Forest entomology, \$1,087,490.

Mr. Herridge: What work is undertaken under this item of forest entomology, and where are investigations being carried out in Canada at the present time?

Mr. Gardiner: Some forest entomology work is being done in every province in Canada; but of course the greater part of the work is done where the greater forests are. That is in British Columbia and Ontario, and in some of the eastern provinces. Of course, where disease is threatening, a considerable part of the work is done there. But in direct answer to the question I would say that work is being carried on in every province in Canada.

Mr. Hatfield: Why should it come under the Department of Agriculture?

Mr. Gardiner: It is a matter of research, and a considerable part of the entomological work must be done in the Department of Agriculture. I do not say that the forestry must be done there, but the same experts who deal with insects that are pests to crops are experts in the handling of insects which are pests to trees. As a matter of fact, in most countries forestry is considered as a part of agriculture. The production of trees is considered to be agriculture just as much as the production of any other crop that grows out of the ground. As to entomology, in the department here the practice is followed of maintaining the staffs to do this work, both for forestry and for agricultural products, under the operation of this department.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Science service—

12. Plant protection, \$639,320.

Mr. Wright: Has the department any information with regard to the rather severe infestation of a weevil which has destroyed the small sweet clover and alfalfa seedlings in the northern part of the three prairie provinces? There has been a rather serious outbreak in the last year or two. I was wondering if the department had any information on the matter or if they had any methods of control worked out with regard to it.

Mr. Gardiner: The proper place to have asked that question was, of course, on the last item, which dealt with entomology. This particular item is to prevent the bringing in of commodities in such a way as to bring along with them diseases of one kind or another. The question asked comes under the other item. I do not think we have any information with regard to the matter, but I am pleased to be informed that there is some of that infestation in the area mentioned, and we shall see that someone looks into it.

Mr. Hansell: I should like to make a suggestion to the minister. I think most of us know that the government is desirous of protecting our orchards and our plants by destroying the diseases that may come into Canada from the United States by way of the transportation of certain fruits. I am just wondering whether the customs authorities at the border points where that rule applies might give to those coming in with fruit some reason why this regulation is in force. I make that suggestion because we can quite understand that, if a carload of peaches or something of that nature comes into Canada, it is likely to bring in some disease. But this regulation does not apply only to commercial quantities coming into Canada. It applies to certain types of fruit no matter how small the consignment may be. A tourist may come along with twenty-five cents worth of peaches in a bag. He is informed that he cannot go any farther unless he eats those peaches; or if he does not care to eat them there are disposal cans at the back of the immigration buildings where he can dispose of the fruit. That is what happens. That was my experience. I was not going to dispose of any fruit in that manner. Therefore I sat there and ate it, and I also shared my bag of fruit with the immigration authorities who were quite happy about it, too. But while I was there I noticed one or two who were highly incensed as they hustled off with their few peaches, or whatever they had, and dumped them into the garbage can. I did not know anything about this and so I asked one of the authorities, as we were standing there eating our fruit together, why these regula-