

Experimental Farms—Maintenance of Central Farm and establishment and maintenance of additional branch stations—further amount required, \$40,000.

Mr. BURRELL: This vote is very largely in connection with the publications. We did not put a sufficient amount in the Main Estimates, as sufficient allowance was not made for the extension of the work this year. We have 300,000 names on our publication lists, and owing to the war and owing to the production campaign, which has been carried forward very vigorously this year, owing also to the decision to issue some special and rather expensive bulletins in connection with wheat rust and one or two other matters, we thought it advisable to put in this amount of \$40,000, which we think will cover the expenditure.

Mr. MURPHY: Would the minister inform the committee generally as to the sale of products from the Central Experimental Farm and whether there is realized from the sale of the products of the farm each year a sum sufficient, or approximately sufficient to defray the expenses of the farm? There is some public curiosity on this point.

Mr. BURRELL: I do not know how the sales of the farm will compare this year with other years, but speaking generally, my hon. friend will understand that no experimental farm in the world could pay by the sale of its products for the operation of the farm, because these articles that are sold are only a sort of by-product. The object of an experimental farm, of course, is not to grow stuff for the market, but to carry on perhaps five hundred different experiments out of which perhaps only one or two would be of any commercial profit at all. I am sorry I cannot give anything like an approximate estimate of what was sold at the farm, or as to what proportion it would bear towards the general expenditure of the farm, but speaking offhand, it would be a very small percentage. The money goes, of course, to the Receiver General.

Mr. MURPHY: There is a good deal of stuff sold?

Mr. BURRELL: Oh yes. We have been experimenting, for instance, in the manufacture of certain types of cream cheese and things like that. In regard to cattle, the milk has to be used.

Mr. MURPHY: Fruit, in the same way?

Mr. BURRELL: Yes. I am sorry I cannot give the details.

[Mr. Burrell.]

Mr. SINCLAIR: What is the location of the additional branch stations that the minister proposes to establish?

Mr. BURRELL: We are not establishing them. This vote is very largely in connection with our publications, which we have enormously increased. This year we have issued something like 3,000,000 publications altogether. The publications vote is always a pretty heavy one.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The item is improperly placed in these Estimates then? There is nothing here about publications.

Mr. BURRELL: The whole vote goes in in that way. I am simply carrying out the practice that has always been followed. This vote covers all the operations of the farm, including publications and everything else. It is then subdivided in the Estimates and taken up more or less in detail.

Mr. MACDONALD: Would the minister explain what has been the cause of the delay in the receipt of the usual blue-books of the Experimental Farm, which in other years have always been available early in the session? A large number of my constituents are very much interested in these reports, and, we only got them about a week ago.

Mr. BURRELL: That is for the last fiscal year?

Mr. MACDONALD: Yes. It seems to me if the House had not been sitting we would not have had them at all for distribution among the members and consequently among our constituents.

Mr. BURRELL: I think my hon. friend will have to stir up the Printing Bureau. We get our reports out as fast as we can and they are got out in fairly good time. I am afraid I will have to transfer some responsibility to the Printing Bureau. I will make an inquiry about it.

Mr. COPP: Are there accounts kept in the Experimental Farms as to the crop of different grains, how much per acre is grown and so on? Is that all given in the report?

Mr. BURRELL: Yes.

Mr. COPP: And what becomes of it?

Mr. BURRELL: Yes.

Mr. GLASS: I would like to ask the minister if any satisfactory progress has been made in connection with the flax experiments during this year?