

house whether the government would take into serious consideration the possibility of calling the next session of parliament about the first of November instead of in February, as has been the case this year?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): After one of my hon. friends on the opposite side introduced the subject yesterday, I had prepared a schedule which helps to indicate the length of sessions in previous years. I shall be glad to furnish the hon. member if he so desires with a copy of that memorandum. I think he will find when the sessions were called in the fall that for the most part they lasted just as long into the following year as they have when the sessions began early in the new year. The house has had experience with both practices. Sir Wilfrid Laurier adopted for a time the practice of having parliament meet in November and it was discontinued later by Sir Robert Borden, largely I think on the representation of members from western Canada who complained that they should not be kept away from their homes so long. However, with respect to the time of the meeting of parliament, that like all others is a matter which the government will have to consider in the light of existing circumstances. I regret I cannot say more than that, but the government will do in this as in all else, what it believes to be most in the national interest.

Mr. COOTE: May I point out that we have now new rules governing procedure and if parliament were called on the first of November there is no reason why the session might not be through by the first of May. It seems to me it would be much better for all members of parliament, particularly those who come such long distances.

## SUPPLY

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Health of animals, administration of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act and Meat and Canned Foods Act, and necessary buildings, \$2,450,000.

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Minister of Agriculture): I have a suggestion to make with respect to this vote. There was some discussion on it the last time it was before the committee and in order to expedite the passage of these items I suggest that further discussion of the vote be deferred until we come to the supplementary vote of the same character, No. 361, with respect to health of animals. It would facilitate business if we passed now this large vote in the main esti-

mates, leaving further discussion until we reach that supplementary vote. I have no idea of restricting discussion, but it would make for greater progress in disposing of the smaller items which immediately follow this vote.

Mr. BENNETT: If it meets with the view of hon. members to the left, I think it would serve some useful purpose to do so. There would be no lessening of the discussion and we would get the matter in hand as we go along.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That is all very well, but this vote might be called some night at a quarter to twelve o'clock.

Mr. BENNETT: It will be called now, I understand.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No, we just want to make some progress on the smaller items.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): If we can have the assurance that this item will be called at a reasonable hour, in order to give us an opportunity of debating it, that might be all right.

Mr. BENNETT: I suggest that we discuss both items together.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We might keep at this for an hour and not make very much progress. My suggestion is that we let this go through and then have the discussion on the same item in the supplementary estimates. Then we can make some progress in the smaller items following the main vote.

Mr. COOTE: This seems a peculiar suggestion. If the minister desires to get on with some of the smaller items, why not call those items and let this one stand?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Very well.

Item stands.

Entomology, \$25,000.

Mr. TUMMON: Under this item I might repeat the question I asked the minister some time ago. Recently there was an announcement that property had been obtained in the city of Belleville for the Department of Agriculture, and I presume that it has reference to this vote. I would be very glad if the minister would make a short statement as to the work he intends to carry on at that point.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am reminded by my deputy that the building in Belleville to which my hon. friend refers is for the purpose of housing all our staff in that vicinity, including our seed inspection and entomological staffs. The purchase has not been completed as yet, but it is in the course of