

Mr. MARSHALL: It does not affect the Manyberries station?

Mr. GARDINER: No, except that part of the work was carried on at the other station.

Mr. MARSHALL: How much is usually spent at that farm?

Mr. GARDINER: Last year we spent \$33,000. We estimate that this year we will spend \$24,783. The difference between those two amounts is largely represented by the closing of that illustration station.

Mr. PERLEY: On June 6 the minister answered a question asked by the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright) with respect to the dismissal of one James Duffin, formerly employed as head herdsman at Melfort experimental farm. Following the appearance of that answer in *Hansard*, I received a letter from that vicinity stating that it was considered that this man had been unfairly dealt with because, among other things, he had been dismissed with only a few days' notice. It is felt that the answer in *Hansard*, stating that his services were unsatisfactory, was not a fair one, and more information is desired as to why he was dismissed and also why others were dismissed shortly after, by his successor. I should like to ask the minister who succeeded James Duffin.

Mr. GARDINER: I understand there has been no replacement. I have no personal knowledge of the matter at all; I only know what was stated in the answer at the time it was presented to the house. I understand, however, that this man's services were not satisfactory and that he was offered employment as a labourer. There has been no one appointed to replace him.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I do not want to labour the point, but would the minister give the committee an assurance that if the experimental farm at Rosthern is sold it will be not by private sale but by public auction or tender?

Mr. GARDINER: I do not know that I should give that assurance. If the government undertake to sell the farm I believe they will try to do so to the best advantage. It is just possible that some individual may be prepared to make a private offer which would be better than we could get otherwise. I do not know. That is a matter we would have to consider at the time. I may say we have not any intention at this time of selling it to any particular person or group of individuals. However, I should not like to bind the department to any particular method of sales.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. GRAHAM: Would the minister place on record the reduction in the estimate respecting the Swift Current experimental farm?

Mr. GARDINER: There is no decrease in respect of that farm. It was \$45,254 last year, and in the present year we estimate \$47,952, an increase of \$2,698.

Mr. EVANS: Would the minister indicate how many demonstration and illustration stations it is contemplated will be closed?

Mr. GARDINER: To secure that information, I would have to go through a list of 117 items. There are nineteen closing, and they will be spread right across Canada.

Mr. EVANS: Could the minister give the ones for Saskatchewan?

Mr. GARDINER: We closed out five in Saskatchewan a year ago, and we are closing out one this year.

Item agreed to.

Production service.

15. Production service administration, \$35,785.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Does this item refer to the advertising of farm products?

Mr. GARDINER: No; that comes under marketing.

Mr. SENN: Before the item passes, I should like to make a passing reference to a gentleman who was the director of this service from the time it was instituted two or three years ago. Mr. Rothwell, who passed away last fall, was a gentleman highly regarded. He was a capable, efficient and painstaking civil servant. I am sure the country generally and the department in particular have suffered because of his death. When does the minister intend to fill the vacancy? I understand that at the present time a gentleman is occupying the position in an unofficial capacity. However, it has always occurred to me that anyone who is to do his best work, and particularly a civil servant, should have all possible authority connected with his position, and should not be forced to be only an acting official.

Mr. GARDINER: May I add my own words of commendation to those uttered by the hon. member for Haldimand regarding the work performed during many years by Mr. Rothwell? I am not in a position at the moment to say when an appointment will be made to fill the position. As a matter of fact, the work is being efficiently performed by the gentleman who before Mr. Rothwell's death acted as his assistant, a gentleman, who, by the way, is seated at the table in front of me at this moment. The appointment will, however, be given consideration at an early date.