

Mr. McINTOSH: His remarks in the first place were changed in Hansard, and he qualified it by adding "French speaking" in the unrevised and revised edition.

Item agreed to.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It is not carried, Mr. Chairman. You did not rule on the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gobeil): Yes, I did.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Which way?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gobeil): I ruled the hon. member out of order.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Excellent.

Experimental farms, including investigations concerning plant diseases, \$1,815,000.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: From now until eleven o'clock I am going to try to assist the minister to get his estimates through and I will make my remarks as brief as possible. I have been somewhat anxious about the ultimate fate of the experimental farm at Rosthern. It looks to me as if it is being starved to death. I can understand that. I recall when the Liberals came into power in the early days we did not seem to have enough money to keep all these farms going properly and, Rosthern, Nappan, and Windermere were among those we thought we could not keep going. I reported to my colleagues that either these three farms had to get more money or they would have to be closed. I half suspect that that is the position the minister is in with regard to some of these farms, and I have some sympathy for him if that is the situation. I pointed out to the Minister of Finance of that day that it was a question of either getting more money to keep all these farms going or some of them, and Rosthern was one, would have to be closed. Well, we decided to keep them all going and going strong, and not to start any more until we had more money in sight. That was our policy. The minister should be candid with us and tell us if that is the situation with himself and his colleagues now. If that is the situation the only thing for him to do is to tell his colleagues that there must be some more money supplied for experimental farms or they cannot all be kept going properly. It is better in my opinion to keep eighteen going properly than to keep twenty-two half starved. My good friend knows there was a lot of very fine experimental fruit work being done on that farm at Rosthern. It was coming along nicely, largely under the supervision of the Morden superintendent, Mr.

[Mr. Nicholson.]

Leslie, since Mr. Munro left, and I believe in some measure it is under his supervision yet. Mr. Hutton took Mr. Munro's place as superintendent of the Rosthern farm, after the latter was let out. I should very much like to know if that farm is going to be allowed to die or live, and not hang it up betwixt and between. It would be a relief to me and I am sure it would be to the minister himself. Rumours have gone abroad that the farm is up for sale. I have no reason for thinking there is anything authentic in that rumour, but I am just passing it along to the minister so that he will not keep the people interested in the work of this farm any longer in suspense. It is a terrible thing to have the people in a community who have become accustomed to an institution like the Rosthern farm wondering what is going to be its ultimate fate. Judging from what I know personally through going past the farm, and judging by the diminishing size of these votes, and knowing what it costs to keep these farms going properly I am a little anxious. Perhaps the minister will tell us what was set aside for this farm last year as compared with say four years ago. If he would do that, and it was a reasonable amount, I would not have much to say about it, because I went through the whole thing myself and finally decided to go ahead full steam with the Rosthern farm, so that I know the minister's position.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): In the first place the Rosthern farm has not been offered for sale, but I knew there were certain rumours to that effect and I assured the gentleman who wrote me that it had not been offered and that neither it nor any other farm would be offered for sale without tenders being called for. We do feel that Rosthern is doing a very valuable work. They are not carrying out so many small projects; none of the farms is except those where we have decided to specialize along certain lines like the farm at Swift Current, specializing in dry farming and so on. We are carrying out at Rosthern practical experiments chiefly with reference to dairying and the suitability of forage crops for that area north from Saskatoon that has been approved by our own dominion agrostologist. The horticultural work is being directed, as the hon. member said, from Morden. It is very difficult to get men qualified to do this work in sufficient numbers for each of the experimental farms even if it was thought advisable. But Rosthern has been doing particularly good work along these lines, and also in connection with poultry and advanced