

this Government assist that industry in the North-west, I cannot, with my knowledge of the situation of the case, support a motion that will simply ask this Government for money that will not be put to a proper use or to the use for which it is most needed in the Territories.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Before this motion is put, Sir, I wish to say a few words which I think are justified in view of the importance of the scheme. The hon. member who introduced this motion has alluded to the fact that on former occasions in this House this same motion had been brought forward by him, therefore the older members of the House, no doubt, are familiar with the facts of the case. It is evident that there is a difference of opinion as to the means of developing the dairy interests of the North-west Territories. I am sure that nobody, least of all myself who have been so long earnestly engaged in developing the dairy industry of the country and who have studied very carefully the best means of developing that industry, would wish to minimize or in any way interfere with any proposition which would tend to the development of the dairy industry of the North-west Territories. I can remember on a former occasion, when I was a member of this House, I myself pointed out the necessity of the introduction and encouragement in the North-west Territories and Manitoba of mixed farming in preference to the sole cultivation of the cereals. I do not know any way in which mixed farming can be more profitably carried on than in the dairy industry. It is only by the maintenance of herds of cattle, it is only by the profitable development of stock keeping that the fertility of the plains of the North-west can be maintained. It is true that we have there a virgin fertility, a fertility on which the people of our country are disposed, perhaps, to draw too freely, a bank which, perhaps, may very easily be overdrawn; and I am sure that in the interest of the future of our country and the future of our great North-west it is important that that bank, that store of fertility should be maintained and not exhausted. This can only be done by the maintenance of stock on these North-west plains. This being the case, I am greatly interested in the development and encouragement of the dairying industry there. As I said a few minutes ago, there is an evident difference of opinion in regard to the way in which that industry can be best encouraged and developed. My hon. friend opposite (Mr. Davin) in this motion has given in detail not altogether, but still in some detail, what he wishes to do. I may say to the hon. gentleman that I have already discussed this matter and discussed the proposition which Professor Robertson had made in regard to this same vote in last year's proposed Supplementary Esti-

Mr. OLIVER.

mates. While desirous of doing everything that can possibly be done to develop the dairy industry of the country, I feel that the time has not yet been reached at which a definite proposition in this form can be accepted by myself as Minister of Agriculture or by the Government. The establishment of creameries in the North-west by this scheme, I think, has been fairly described by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) and I must thank that hon. gentleman for what he has said and acknowledge the very practical and business-like way in which he has put before the House, the needs of that part of the country which he represents. The difficulties are no doubt those which he has pointed out—that in a country where population is sparse, where herds of cattle, and especially of cows are small in number and scattered, the ordinary creamery industry, as carried on in the eastern part of Canada is made very difficult and is subjected to very great disabilities. What we want there is population and the introduction of herds of cattle. I believe Professor Robertson's proposal was to establish eight creameries with a grant of \$20,000. It seems to me that this assistance to the dairy interests of the North-west would be very much localized, and that it would not really encourage the development of the industry by the people themselves. We should so act that the people themselves, with such assistance as we are able to give them will undertake the work, will be interested in the work and so will be better able to carry it on to a successful issue. I believe that by encouragement of that kind we can accomplish more than by the scheme the hon. gentleman has laid before the House. I trust, therefore, that the hon. gentleman will not press this motion to a division. I would ask him to allow the motion to be withdrawn and trust to the Government and myself as the special representative of the Government in regard to the agricultural interests, to take this question into serious consideration and try in the near future to make such provision in the ordinary way as may accomplish the end he has in view. I may say, that while the hon. gentleman puts this in as an addition to the immigration grant, the estimate in the proposed Supplementary Estimates of the late Government was in the estimates of the Agricultural Department, a department which does not now, as hon. gentlemen know, deal with immigration matters. If the hon. gentleman would agree to this proposition, I can assure him that the dairy interests of the North-west Territories will not suffer in the future, and that I, as Minister of Agriculture, will promise him that anything that can be done will be done to develop and to encourage these industries.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I sincerely hope my hon. friend the member for Assinibola