

September 1923 seed potatoes from an infected district are prohibited from being sold in other districts. Does the same provision apply to potatoes imported from sections that are known to be affected by the potato wart disease? That disease is practically not known in Canada as yet.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No. I presume if the infection ever got a start and it was thought to be serious we should have to adopt a quarantine.

Mr. JOHNSTON: Have any experiments been carried on with a view to the destruction of the wheat stem sawfly which attacks wheat in western Canada?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That has been left largely to the provinces. That also is controlled to a very large extent by deep fall ploughing. The little maggot larva after cutting around the wheat straw and letting it fall over, goes down the straw to within two inches of the ground and winters there. But if the stubble is ploughed in the fall, or burnt, or in any way destroyed, it substantially controls future depredations. It will not control the operations of this pest altogether but it helps very substantially. This is such a very ingenious insect that it taxes the ingenuity of man to get the better of it. In spite of different devices adopted for its control, it is still there and getting worse.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. SPENCE: When the committee adjourned at six o'clock we were discussing the item for the administration of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act. There is also an item under the head of entomology. Both of these items should be discussed together. Very few of us know very much about entomology and I think the hon. minister knows just about as much as the rest of us. I know very little, and I think hon. members of the House know just as little.

Mr. FORKE: Speak for yourself.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Each hon. member should make his own confession.

Mr. SPENCE: The hon. minister would have no reason to understand entomology very well because this branch has been established in the last few years in connection

with the Agriculture department and very few of us know very much about it.

You are to be congratulated, Mr. Chairman, on the display of such a great amount of patience this afternoon, listening to members discussing everything, and travelling all over the lot. Whoever heard of the grading of eggs or butter or cheese? Someone suggested an embargo on beans, and someone suggested the appointment of a pathologist in connection with entomology. I never heard of such a thing in my life. There is no doubt the department has been more or less extravagant but why should hon. members waste so much time discussing a matter of this kind? The hon. member for Victoria and Carleton (Mr. Caldwell) made a strong charge this afternoon against the potato dealers of New Brunswick, and I am sorry he had to make that charge, because I hate to hear of men in that walk of life resorting to such trickery in regard to the grading of potatoes, particularly the grading of seed potatoes, whether it is government certificated seed or just ordinary seed potatoes. I think the Minister of Agriculture and his department should investigate a charge of that kind. I have probably at the present time a thousand bags of seed potatoes which I paid for. I think I got just what I paid for, and I have always got a good decent deal from the dealers in New Brunswick, but this would not apply to the cases cited by the hon. member. I know something about the duties of the Entomological branch, being an importer of nursery stock, shrubbery, rose bushes and such things as that, but I must confess I know very little about entomology. However, I am a thorough believer in the inspection of foreign importations, or any importations, because it is absolutely necessary to keep away pests and plagues of one kind and another. I am not a believer in so much money being spent in embalming bugs and things of that kind, packing them away in mahogany cases, and having a whole department looking after them, in order to prevent them walking away at some future time. I contend, Mr. Chairman, that there are too many men in this country who imagine that they are inventing something new, but who in reality are preparing jobs for themselves and probably at the same time advocating the establishment of new departments, and services. We have to depend on somebody in regard to entomology. None of us knows what this item may cost, and I would ask the hon. minister to study a little economy in connection with it because somebody has to be depended on to give us a square deal in the matter. I hope in