

that they are undertaking this work. It is for us to say whether it is the part of wisdom to commence this divergence or not. Therefore, it is necessary to get this information to enable us to judge whether it is wise to keep up the farms for that purpose. I think the hon. minister ought to be in a position to give that information to the committee.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No increased expenditure which is required for this work is to be taken out of the vote under consideration. The land of the farm is to be used, it is true, but any other work in connection with the raising of these trees for this purpose is to be paid for by the Interior Department.

MR. SPROULE. Perhaps only a dozen farmers may apply this year, but if the experiment is a great success there may be a thousand applications next year. This will, of course, entail increased work on the farms, and before we determine whether it is wise to maintain these experimental farms for that purpose, we should have the information I have asked for.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot give any more information.

MR. MONK. I do not think that is at all fair. As the hon. member (Mr. Sproule) has pointed out, we are embarking upon a new policy. I am far from saying that it is not a proper thing to maintain these tree nurseries for the farmers of the North-west, but surely we are entitled to know what amount out of this vote is to be expended for the cultivation of these trees.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No portion of this vote will be so expended.

MR. MONK. Who will pay the expense then?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Minister of the Interior will pay the expense in that connection. I have already explained that no part of this \$80,000 will be devoted to that work. The farm work will be carried on as it has been in the past, and every bit of work connected with the raising of these trees will be paid for out of the Interior vote.

MR. SPROULE. Then, we are commencing to divide the farm work between two departments of the government, and that is a bad system. In the past we thought it wise to keep all this work under the Department of Agriculture, so that we might see at a glance what is the expenditure and what is the progress made. If the Department of the Interior becomes a co-partner with that of Agriculture, it will be more complex and more difficult to get at the value of the work done.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Although the work is going to be paid for by the Department of the Interior, that

department will not have anything to do with the actual management of the work. The work will be done by the farm at the expense of the Interior Department, but it will be done by my officers and by the hands employed on the farm, and if more hands are needed, as they will be for this work, the time and the work of those hands will be charged to the Minister of the Interior, just the same as the Printing Bureau charges my department with printing other work.

MR. SPROULE. Suppose that on one of these farms a dozen men are employed and three are engaged in the arboretum, and the demand will so increase in the future that it will require a couple of hundred hands to supply it, that extra demand would not be in connection with the farm work, and yet we will be called upon to vote larger sums year after year, to meet this increased employment of labour.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Through the Department of the Interior.

MR. SPROULE. Will not the Department of Agriculture pay for the farm hands?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is impossible for me to explain any further than I have.

MR. SPROULE. The minister told us a few minutes ago that this vote covered the salaries of the farm hands. But suppose this work requires a far greater number of hands, will we not be obliged to vote a larger sum year after year to pay them? In order to enable us to determine if it is wise to enter into this business, it is essential that we should have the information that we ask. As soon as the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture get through their consultation, I will resume. I am not talking for the mere amusement of it, nor for the purpose of killing time, but with the endeavour—somewhat ineffectual, I admit—to get information which we ought to know before we can intelligently vote this money. We ought to know upon what line it is proposed to distribute these trees to the farmers, and whether or not, an unlimited number will be supplied in the future, as the demands may increase.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I must tell the hon. gentleman frankly that that is information which I cannot give. My hon. colleague (Hon. Mr. Sifton) has that information, and I believe gave it to the House when he got the vote out of which this expenditure is paid. I have explained that the money which I am asking now will not go for that purpose, and therefore I do not think I can fairly be called upon to give that information.

MR. INGRAM. Do I understand that no portion of this \$80,000 will be applied to the distribution of the trees?