

like that has not the natural host plant available, it will fasten on something else. Some western grasses are thought to act as intermediary hosts—rye grass, for instance, although that has not been proved. Rust will not carry over in the seed or in the land; if it were you could treat it.

Mr. CALDWELL: In view of the fact that the hon. member for York-Sunbury seems to doubt that shippers have been putting tags on potatoes that were not justified by the act, I would ask the minister if his department ever had any complaint of this kind. Has the minister ever seen any of the tags?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I understand that we had sufficient evidence of it last year that we inserted a proviso in the regulations making it an offence.

Mr. CALDWELL: Has the minister ever seen any of the tags?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No, but I understand my deputy has.

Mr. SPENCER: I was interested to hear what the minister had to say with regard to the destruction of the barberry bush. Is it not a fact that there are barberry bushes at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes.

Mr. SPENCER: Why have they not been destroyed?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We are not bothered with rust. We do not grow very much wheat around here. We do some experimenting with wheat but it is not the big crop, and besides we are not affected by rust.

Mr. BLACK (Huron): Does the minister not find that rust in oats in Ontario is as bad as rust in wheat in the West?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: There is a lot of rust all over the country. The rust in oats my hon. friend speaks of is a different rust.

Mr. CALDWELL: With regard to rust or blight in potatoes does not the plant pathologist find that the near proximity of the old-fashioned rose bush affects potato fields? Has there been anything of an educational character carried on along this line among the potato growers? I have understood from our plant pathologist in New Brunswick that this was considered both by United States and by Canadian authorities to be one of the places where the blight or rust that attacks potatoes lurks.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think it is a common belief when you know a thing exists that

it is due to some influence close at hand, just as the invasion of rust has been attributed in the past to these barberry bushes. With regard to rust or blight in potatoes, it is not known in even a small degree that the rose bush is the medium.

Mr. CALDWELL: Is the minister sure of that?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am not sure.

Mr. CALDWELL: I think if the minister will consult Dr. Gussow's branch he will find a record there of the research work that has been carried on. Our own plant pathologist in New Brunswick believes this, and the belief is entertained as a result of research work carried on in the United States. We have meetings of the pathologists of the United States, including pathologists from the state of Maine which is near us, with our own plant pathologist in the province of New Brunswick, and that seems to be their opinion. I may say that Mr. Cunningham, who recently resigned the position of plant pathologist in New Brunswick, is a very excellent scientist. I was very sorry indeed when he resigned from the position. He did more, possibly, to assist the farmers and potato growers of New Brunswick in connection with growing certified seed potatoes than any other man, and I sincerely trust that the minister will be able to get as good a man to replace him. I hope the government will not appoint to the vacant position a man who is not competent. In saying that I do not wish to make any observation derogatory to any of the applicants for the vacancy, but it is most desirable that we should have the best man possible for such a position. I urge the minister not to be satisfied until he has laid his hands upon the very best man qualified for the position, because to us in New Brunswick the growing of potatoes is just as important as is the raising of wheat to our friends in the West.

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince): Some of the questions that have arisen in this discussion are of very special interest to Prince Edward Island. As a matter of historical interest I wish to say that the very first enactment bearing on this question, legislation designed to curb the inroads of the Colorado beetle, was passed by the legislature of Prince Edward Island in 1883. The point raised by the hon. member (Mr. Caldwell) regarding seed potatoes is very important to us as well as the matter of inspection. We have not had the complaints to which he has referred, although a number of growers have made shipments apart from the association. All potatoes that are shipped through the associa-