

*Supply—Agriculture*

During the past years that I have been in the house our scrap with the government at all times has been to have more money spent on experimental work. My own feelings and the feelings of those who sent me here—I believe I can speak for the farming industry generally—is that the work of the central experimental farm should be kept up at the highest degree of perfection.

**Mr. Graydon:** I fancy that every hon. member of the committee will agree with much of what has been said with respect to the experimental farm. I should like to make a suggestion to the minister and to the chairman of the agriculture committee which may be set up, that a visit to the central experimental farm should be made an annual event so that hon. members could examine the splendid work being done there. I remember that in previous years we used to go out to the farm, and I think we all received benefit from that visit.

When the agriculture committee is set up I think it might hold a meeting out there once in a while, because they have not been so good at that in the past. The members of that committee could then make a thorough study of the experiments being carried on.

**Mr. Gardiner:** As the hon. member for Peel has said, prior to the war the members of the agriculture committee and any other hon. members who cared to go along were taken out to the farm and shown the developments there. I am sure that that can be arranged again if it is the wish of the committee and other hon. members. I shall take it up with the deputy minister and see if arrangements cannot be made to that end.

A question was asked the other night by the hon. member for Calgary East with regard to the capital cost of the science service laboratory at Lethbridge. The figures are as follows:

1946-47 .....	\$ 20,619.45
1947-48 .....	112,255.54
1948-49 .....	148,436.79
Total .....	\$281,311.78

As I said the other day, the official opening of the finally completed plant is taking place today.

**Mr. Harkness:** What work is being carried on at that plant in Lethbridge?

**Mr. Gardiner:** It deals mainly with the diseases of cattle. Previously the laboratory was located some distance from Lethbridge and from our farm. This laboratory was put up in the early days at the request of the ranchers to investigate certain diseases from which cattle were suffering. The year before last it was decided that in order to make the

results more readily available to a greater number of people this plant should be moved closer to the experimental farm and the town of Lethbridge, and in addition that the work should be extended somewhat. Therefore, the expenditures I have referred to have been made. In addition, some work is being carried on in connection with plant diseases.

**Mr. Harkness:** The expenditures which the minister has given are those for 1946-49 inclusive, but yesterday I asked what part of the \$517,000 to be appropriated under the item we were dealing with for new construction was to be apportioned to that particular project. We have not yet obtained that information.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I understand the question now put to be: What part of the total amount of over \$500,000 spent last year was spent at Lethbridge? That is the last figure which I read. The amount spent in 1948-49 was \$148,436.79.

**Mr. Harkness:** These estimates are for 1949-50. They are not for 1948-49.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Of course that money was in the estimates for this year. It is being voted just now. I would have to make further inquiries in order to make sure how much of this money came out of that vote. On second thought, none of it could come out of that vote.

**Mr. Harkness:** It could not.

**Mr. Gardiner:** The amount of money is in the estimates of 1949-50, and possibly the amount which has been spent on this project up to date will not yet appear in our accounts because much of it could not be paid. The money is not yet voted. During the last session we made provision for expenditures which would carry us over six months, but I am not certain that the expenditure from those amounts which were to carry us over six months would cover all of the costs of the work which would be done there, or whether some of it still has to be voted. I think it is pretty well assured that the estimates as brought down will be passed, but there is just a possibility that on work of that kind six months' supply would cover it, because all of these buildings are pretty well completed in the summertime. We are getting close to the end of the summer now, and we still have a short part of the six months' period to be covered. It is just possible that the total amount which was set aside for that building has been spent.

**Mr. Harkness:** Surely this procedure is a little loose as far as financing is concerned. To begin with, the minister said that the item for 1948-49, which he gave me as \$148,436.79, was included in this amount, and

[Mr. Fair.]