

Mr. TOLMIE: While these men happen to be located in these two counties as their home centres, their activities are by no means confined to those particular sections; they travel all through the province and visit every district where they can render active service to the fruit growers.

Mr. DUFF: That explanation leaves a little food for thought. I was just wondering whether these men were appointed by the Civil Service Commission or under the old patronage system, for it seems rather strange that they should all be located in the two counties, although they have to travel all over the province. It would be cheaper for the country and be more satisfactory to the fruit growers to have those inspectors distributed throughout the province; for instance, there should be one or two located in the county of Lunenburg and one or two in the county represented by the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. McMASTER: They grow tomatoes in that country.

Mr. DUFF: That was in the old days. But a great deal of fruit is grown in several counties besides Annapolis and King's, and I would suggest to the minister the desirability of seeing if those inspectors cannot be located in various centres in the province instead of being all grouped together in one or two counties. While I am not speaking for my own county particularly, I may say that we have three or four fruit warehouses and have shipped thousands of barrels of apples to the Old Country, and it seems to me that we are entitled to at least one inspector in the county of Lunenburg. By distributing their inspectors throughout the province the department would save a great deal of expense incurred by their men travelling to and from their present centres. Looking over the list of the amounts paid last year for travelling expenses, I find that Mr. Alcorn's were \$1,069.86, Mr. DeVany's \$112.05, Mr. Harri's \$608.45, Mr. Le Cain's \$693.81, Mr. Milner's \$581.42, Mr. Neily's \$484.70, Mr. Vroom's \$1,556.80, and Mr. Woodworth's \$777.50. These were men located in Annapolis county. I think the minister will agree with me that that money was practically wasted, because if these men were located throughout the province their travelling expenses to and from points within their respective districts would be practically nil. There is between \$7,000 and \$8,000 expended by these men in travelling from King's and Annapolis counties all over the province (and that money might just as well have been saved. I would suggest to the minister taking up the matter

[Mr. Duff.]

with the Civil Service Commission or the patronage committee, whichever it is, with a view to seeing if these men cannot be sent back to their farms and other men appointed in every county. That is the practical and businesslike way, and it would be in the interest of the fruit industry and of the country. Does not the minister think my suggestion a valuable one?

Mr. TOLMIE: I have made a note of the hon. member's suggestion. I may point out that nearly all of these men were appointed by the Civil Service Commission, and I presume that that commission selected them for their ability in their particular line of work. Naturally, those two counties being very largely engaged in fruit growing, the most able and experienced men would be easily secured in those particular sections. The fruit inspectors would visit those points in the province where the big crops were being grown so that they would have an opportunity for demonstration work in the way of spraying, packing, and so on. They do not devote their time to the counties in which they are located, but travel around so that they may give the fullest possible service wherever they are required in the province. With the present high cost of travel it is almost impossible to avoid a certain amount of expense in connection with the activities of these inspectors. However, I will look closely into the details, and if an improvement can be made I shall be very glad to follow the hon. member's suggestion.

Mr. DUFF: The minister said a moment ago that he thought these men were appointed by the Civil Service Commission because of their ability and knowledge of the fruit business, gained in their home counties. I want to say that in other counties in Nova Scotia there are just as capable men in the fruit growing business. I cannot understand how three commissioners sitting in the Hunter building in Ottawa can pick out men in Annapolis and King's who are thoroughly qualified to inspect fruit in the province of Nova Scotia. To my mind the minister or his deputy is the right and proper man to pick out these inspectors, and not Dr. Roche, Mr. Jameson and Col. Larochelle. The quicker we get back to first principles in the appointment of these men the better it will be for this country. I do not know how these inspectors were chosen, but their selection seems rather strange, and if the Civil Service Commission advertised in the proper way I do not understand how only men from King's and Annapolis were appointed. In