

Mr. McINTOSH: I believe the statement was made, but if the minister thinks it should not have been, I shall leave the matter at that. If it ever was made, I am here to refute it, I do not care who made it, because the day will come when that part of western Canada should have an experimental farm. It is the park area of northern Saskatchewan and it is quite possible to have there an experimental farm devoted to problems entirely different from those dealt with by a farm established in a differently constituted and differently cultivated area. The question ought to be an open one. I do not think all the evidence is in yet to justify anyone making a ridiculous statement of that kind; but if it actually was made, I shall take the answer of the minister to the effect that it did not mean anything. As I say, the question is an open one and we shall be looking forward at some time in the future to having—as we should—an experimental farm in that part of western Canada.

Mr. BOTHWELL: Some time last year the herd of cattle which the department had at Swift Current was removed to a farm in Alberta. I should like to know from the minister the reason for that removal and whether it is the intention to establish another herd at the Swift Current experimental farm.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Only part of the herd was removed from the Swift Current station. The work thus lost, if one considers it such, has been made up by feeding experiments that are being carried on there this year. Any results of experimental work that are obtained with reference to live stock in any of the experimental farms are, of course, made available to the Swift Current farm and from there, through the illustration stations surrounding it, to the farmers in that area. But we are carrying out there feeding experiments in connection with young lightweight cattle.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I understand the minister has received many protests from people in that area in connection with the removal of that herd. He says that only part of it was removed. My information was that practically the whole herd was removed. I appreciate the fact that the feeding experiments which have been carried on are valuable, but this government and, I believe, the Saskatchewan government as well, for some time have been trying to encourage diversified farming. When that herd was established at the Swift Current station, other experimental stations could get the benefit of the experiments carried on there. I should like to know the reason for removing that herd of cattle. On whose

recommendation was it transferred? After the department has finished the feeding experiments, is it the intention to build up that herd again?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): As regards the question of diversified farming, there are more cattle there now under experimentation than there were this time last year. We considered it advisable—and that was the recommendation made to me by my officials—that live stock breeding experiments should be more concentrated.

Mr. BOTHWELL: Did the recommendation for the removal of that herd come from the experimental station in Swift Current or from officials of the department at Ottawa or from officials of the station in Alberta to which the herd was transferred?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): No request came from Lacombe. The recommendation came from the department at Ottawa.

Mr. BOTHWELL: Was there any recommendation from the experimental station at Swift Current?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I could not say.

Mr. BOTHWELL: Was the initial recommendation made from the experimental station at Swift Current?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The whole live stock policy on experimental farms is directed by the Dominion Animal Husbandman. He visits the farms in the different provinces, discusses with the men there questions of animal husbandry, returns to Ottawa and sits in with the director and other heads of branches. At that meeting the policy for the next year is evolved. In that way it was decided that the change should be made with reference to the herd at Swift Current.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I want to clear this matter up if I can. There has been a report that the officials at the experimental farm at Swift Current were desirous of having those cattle removed. I do not believe that is the fact and I should like to get the minister's assurance to that effect, so that we may have it as a matter of record.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I would say without hesitation that is not the fact.

Mr. WEIR (Macdonald): May I ask the minister what work the Dominion government is doing in the way of experimentation in the control of grasshoppers with respect to both their active control and poisoning?