

Science service—

6. Animal and poultry pathology, \$353,515.

Mr. Pearkes: Early this summer the animal pathological laboratory which had been located at the experimental station at Saanichton was transferred to the university of British Columbia in Vancouver. For a great many years that animal pathological laboratory under the direction of Dr. Bruce had served the needs of the dairy and poultry farmers on the southern portion of Vancouver island. Since its transfer to Vancouver, these people have been deprived of those services. I realize that these laboratories serve a double purpose, one of research and one of servicing the general needs of the farmers in the area.

It is likely that the research functions can be carried out to better advantage at the university of British Columbia. This means, however, that the poultry and dairy farmers of Vancouver island are left without the services to which they have been accustomed for a great many years. There is a shortage of civilian practitioners on Vancouver island and such as there are are located mainly in the cities where they look after pets. The people in the rural areas are deprived of the services of a qualified veterinarian.

I realize there will be difficulties in returning that laboratory to Saanichton. It might not be desirable, but I would ask the department to have Dr. Bruce, who has retired, replaced by a qualified veterinary officer so that the services which were carried out by this laboratory for so many years might be continued. Would that be possible?

Mr. Gardiner: I shall certainly have the matter investigated to ascertain whether that is possible. I was just asking whether the station at Saanichton had been entirely closed. I am given to understand that such is not the case and some work is being carried on at that point. Some work has to be centralized on the mainland at the university, but that would be there in any case. This work will be continued at that point. I would think there is some justification for suggesting there should be some services available on the island and I shall look into the suggestion.

Mr. Cruickshank: I should like to speak on this item for a moment because we have fought for many years to have that station moved from Saanichton to the university of British Columbia or the Agassiz experimental farm. One of our biggest assets, particularly in acquiring United States funds, is the shipping of purebred cattle to the United States. All the tests for those cattle had to go over to Saanichton. Any one farm in the Fraser valley has more cattle on it than the whole of Vancouver island. The logical place for

these tests to be made was at the university, if not right in the centre of the Fraser valley. After all the years we fought to get the station moved, if the minister or his department attempts to move it back to a point where there are only half a dozen cattle and a few chickens raised by the retired people of Saanichton, there will be a battle.

Item agreed to.

Science service—

8. Botany and plant pathology, \$1,154,500.

Mr. Gardiner: The question asked was as to what the position is in connection with little cherry disease of cherry trees. Little cherry disease is caused by a virus continuously spread in the Kootenay and Arrow lake district as revealed by a survey conducted by dominion and provincial officials. The insertion of buds from diseased cherry trees into peach, prune, apricot, choke cherry and wild cherry and of buds of peach, prune and choke cherry growing near diseased cherry trees into healthy trees and the artificial pollination of healthy cherry trees with pollen from diseased trees, all failed to produce any clear-cut symptom the following year as would be expected if the little cherry disease had been transmitted. A tree-to-tree survey was conducted in the Okanagan valley by provincial officials with the assistance of the staff of the Summerland laboratory of plant pathology, which covered all the southern part up to and including Kelowna. No tree with definite symptoms of little cherry disease was found. One tree in the Oliver district was removed on suspicion.

All that indicates is that investigations are going on and the results of those investigations are as they are shown here. In answer to the question, all I can say is that the work is still going on.

Item agreed to.

Science service—

10. Agricultural entomology, including a payment of \$3,500 to the commonwealth biological control laboratory, Belleville, Ontario, for special services, \$1,321,926.

Mr. Ross (Souris): I should like to ask the minister what his entomologists have found with regard to the probable outbreak of grasshoppers in each of the three prairie provinces in 1950, and what success they have had in controlling the outbreaks this summer. Many farmers are greatly concerned about what the situation will be next year.

Mr. Gardiner: The practical battle against grasshoppers on the ground is carried on by the provincial governments. My information is that during this last summer they have been fairly successful in combating the grasshopper plague. I presume that is because