

get each man to undertake these experiments for himself and make an intelligent return to the Department of Agriculture. A very great deal of useful work has been done by the Agriculture College at Guelph in regard to the distribution of seed. They have there what is called an experimental union. Seed is distributed, and every recipient is supposed to make a return of the results obtained during the year. It is easy to lay down a cast-iron rule with respect to the manufacture of cheese and butter, but the committee will see the difficulty of laying down any such rule with respect to farming. The rules must bend and yield to all the different conditions that obtain on a farm. It would be impossible for any intelligent farmer to conduct operations on two farms and obtain precisely the same results unless the conditions were exactly similar, which would not prevail, and these results could not be obtained by following a cast-iron rule. Experiments on one farm might be very useful, but they might not apply to an adjoining farm, owing to the conditions not being the same. But if we distributed large quantities of grain, and that is the reason why I wish a considerable increase in the expenditure, each person receiving it would become an experimentalist, and excellent results would be obtained in educating the mass of the farmers and bringing about that condition of pride and thrift which our farmers must require in order to farm successfully to-day. The time has passed when our agriculturists can follow the old style and succeed. They must adapt themselves to every new method. They must produce the highest quality of products at the least possible cost, and the margin of profit will depend on the results. I hope the hon. Minister another year will be able to ask a larger sum for distribution of grain, and will adopt measures to secure a larger number of reports. The total cost of bulletins last year, I observe, was \$718, a sum which the Minister will agree with me is altogether too small. People look forward with interest to receiving these bulletins, but, as they are issued on a comparatively small scale, I am afraid they are not doing much benefit. The total expenditure on seed grain distribution was \$1,700. I should like the hon. Minister to explain on what principle the seed grain was distributed from the central farm?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman is entirely in error in thinking that there were fewer bulletins issued during last year than the year before. There were more bulletins issued.

MR. CLANCY. I was not making any comparison, but simply stating that there were too few issued.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I fully appreciate the value of the bulletins, and I have made a great effort to get out

MR. CLANCY.

as many as possible. I think last year we sent out seven bulletins, a considerably larger number than ever before, at all events, more than have been sent out in several previous years. I value very much this method of obtaining information, and it is very important they should be sent out to the farmers, because a great many men will read a short bulletin of eight or ten pages on a certain topic, when they will not read the annual report and pick out the pages referring to their own special subject. Those reports are sent out in accordance with a mailing list. During six or seven years no revision of this list was made, but I had it thoroughly revised last year. The list now amounts to near 55,000 names, and all the publications of the experimental farm are sent to every one of these individuals as soon as they are issued. The hon. gentleman may not be aware of the fact, but in addition to these reports the Agriculture Committee of the House sometimes orders special editions of evidence for the information of farmers. They have ordered sometimes the whole farm report. I think that is not judicious; but the different officers appear before the committee and give evidence, touching lightly and pointedly on the particularly salient features of their year's work, and this evidence is taken down verbatim, and when published is sent out by the committee through members of the House.

The hon. gentleman asks how the seed grain was distributed from the central farm. I have changed the method a little this year. I investigated the matter and found a very small number of reports were sent in by those who had received the grain. This grain is sent out in three-pound bags, and a certificate is sent by the same mail, inclosing a form which the receiver of the grain has to fill up and return to the farm. In this form, details are asked as to the amount of land covered, the nature of the season, the amount of crop harvested, and general remarks as to the result. We found unfortunately that only 20 per cent of all the grain sent out was reported upon. I thought this was a very unfortunate and at the same time, a very startling fact. I, therefore, had a very careful examination made of the list of persons who had received grain. I found that grain was sent out to persons whose names appeared on the list furnished either by members of the House or by societies, and from those persons very few reports were received. In many cases, especially in the lists furnished by members of the House, the persons were not farmers or even gardeners, but were men like blacksmiths, tailors, merchants, and all sorts of people; as a matter of fact some of the members simply marked their voters' lists and asked us to send farm bulletins and seed grain to those people. I therefore instructed Professor Saunders during the past winter to send out a circular to all members