

that these schemes did not originate in the minds or offices of the dominion marketing board, but I should like to place on record a method which to my intimate knowledge was used in an endeavour to bring the tomato producers of a certain part of Ontario under a marketing scheme. I would add that this method has been followed not only in the instance which I will relate but in other parts of Canada in endeavours to persuade, induce or coerce other producers to adopt schemes.

The meeting to which I refer was called in a tomato producing part of Ontario in order that two gentlemen, whose names I shall mention if the minister so desires, might address the meeting, and make an effort to organize the tomato growers of that district. As closely as I can ascertain—

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I do not wish to interrupt, but I should like to have the names, because no officials of the Department of Agriculture are supposed to take any part in putting forward these schemes.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): I did not say that they were officials of the Department of Agriculture.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): No, I did not say that they were officials of the department, but if the minister wishes I shall name them. Some hon. members will know them. They were Mr. Craise of St. Catharines and Mr. Robinson. Now, you have them both.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I understood the hon. member to say that they were officials of the department.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): No, I did not say that. These gentleman called a meeting of tomato growers in the district. Out of 1,200 tomato growers less than 100 attended the meeting, of which number less than sixty per cent voted. I am not for one moment suggesting that that meeting was held to adopt a scheme under the marketing board, but I do say that is the method which has been adopted not only in connection with tomatoes but also in connection with the growing of apples. All you have to do is to say, "Hurrah boys; we will have a meeting in Brighton, Cobourg or somewhere else to-night. Let us all go, because we are going to discuss a marketing scheme." Those who can conveniently attend do attend, and some glib propagandist who has never been successful in operating a business of his own gets up and eulogizes—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

[Mr. W. A. Fraser.]

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): Have a good laugh; it will do you good. This man gets up and eulogizes and attempts to show the farmer or producer how to produce and market his crop. That is what happens; laugh that off.

Let me go one step farther. I have before me an itemized return of the individual payments out of a sum of \$50,000 appropriated in order that government paid propagandists, men paid by money supplied by the taxpayers of Canada, might spend \$50,000 of the taxpayers' money in the three western provinces in an attempt to sell the egg producers a scheme indicating how they could best market their product. What superman or supermind or minds was behind this scheme? Who thought it out? Who thought out this bed-time story? I noticed in checking over a list the other day of civil servants who receive over \$8,000 a year—it was in a newspaper I read it—that the chairman of the marketing board was fortunate enough to be included in the list. I may be wrong in that, and if so, will the minister please correct me?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Does the hon. member refer to the \$50,000 that was sent out?

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): No. I am asking who thought out this scheme; what superman developed this expenditure of \$50,000 for radio addresses and the payment of stump speakers, salaries for stenographers, newspaper advertising, hole in the corner meetings, meetings of school boys and school girls, and practically every other type of propaganda that you can think of. They spent \$50,000 of the taxpayers' money to advance an uneconomic scheme, to convince the poultry producers and egg producers of the three western provinces or convert them to the idea that some technical expert knew more about raising chickens and eggs than the poultry raisers themselves. I said that the gentleman under whose jurisdiction this expenditure came, and who in turn is under the Minister of Agriculture, is a civil servant who, according to the list I saw in a newspaper which I believe was taken from a return brought down in this house, is one of the newly appointed civil servants who are being paid over \$8,000 a year. Is not that correct?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): That is not a correct statement. The marketing board in the first place is not under the Civil Service Act, and the chairman of the board receives a salary of \$10,000.