

these lands would be worse than wasted; the cultivation would be harmful instead of beneficial, because the land would all go to weeds. If I caught the minister's words aright, the farm he proposes continuing within the scope of the enterprise is the one near Regina. What is the name of the reserve?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Muscowequan.

Mr. MEIGHEN: About 4,000 acres?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It will be some time before they are withdrawn.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We are always having difficulty in connection with Indian farming. What I mean by that is that almost every year there will be reserves upon which seed will be required, and I think a farm of that character might very well be continued by the department in order to provide the necessary seed. It might be said that there is no reason why these reserves should not provide seed for themselves, and that does happen once in a while. With the exception of that one farm, I think we should close out these farms as rapidly as we have Indians qualified to take them on. Of course we must continue to operate until then, otherwise the lands would grow up in weeds.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What are the results so far as they can be known now?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I will give that information, which is in the form of answers to some questions that were asked, I do not know by whom. The quantity of grain grown on the Indian reserves in the three prairie provinces during the last five years was 5,363,339 bushels; the proportion of this grown by individual Indians was 3,532,347 bushels; the proportion grown by white settlers 1,100,000 bushels; the proportion grown by the greater production operations was 730,992 bushels; the quantity of grain grown on these same reserves during the five years previous to this period was 5,586,938 bushels; the area summer fallowed and broken by Indians during the last five years was 112,294 acres; area during the previous five years, records not available for breaking and summer fallowing, but total area under crop 1913-1917 inclusive 184,302 acres; amount of rentals collected during the last five years \$440,009.88; amount collected during the previous five years \$54,324.66.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What is the amount still due and collectible?

[Mr. Meighen.]

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I have not that here but it will be a fairly considerable amount I imagine.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Perhaps I did not get the minister's figures right. If I understand them properly his figures were wrong as to the amount grown in the previous five years. I have it at about three and a half million bushels, not five million odd. The increase is something over 100 per cent.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): My hon. friend is quite correct. The quantity of grain grown on these same reserves during the five years previous was 3,586,938 bushels, not 5,586,938 bushels.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister read 5,000,000. There should be about \$130,000 due and collectible still, and if so that amount added to the \$440,000 which the minister has just given would make a total of \$590,000 of direct cash resulting from an investment of about \$360,000. In addition, of course, there would be the buildings. They will be used now by the Indians that are coming on to take possession of the land, the tractors and farm machinery that the greater production enterprise has, and as well there would be some outstandings that would still come in, I mean aside from the rentals. So the whole enterprise would be a very profitable one from every standpoint. Of course, I am quite aware that a large share of the profits come from the leases, but even without the leases there is a very gratifying result from the whole greater production enterprise. I would like to know if the minister's ideas agree with mine on this subject or has he something in his mind that modifies or in any way tempers his enthusiasm with regard to the results attained?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I was not questioning the results at all, but I do not think it would be wise to continue the greater production of grain enterprise now. I do not see any necessity for continuing it. All I am endeavouring to do is to get the Indians to take over this land as fast as they are able to do so and to get down to one reasonably-sized farm close to Regina, where the work can be looked after by Mr. Graham, and a store of grain be left available at that central point for use as required.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the greater production work is good, but I think the Indian on the farm is better, and consequently while there is an Indian who is likely to succeed standing by ready to take the land I agree with the minister that the right thing to do