

Mr. TAYLOR. Like many other documents sent out by this government, there is neither date nor signature to it. It was sent out by the Minister of Agriculture and on the first page we have the following :

In regard to the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Sydney Fisher), I may say that I believe he is competent and able to conduct properly the duties that are imposed upon him in his department. He is a practical farmer, and has devoted a great deal of time and energy in promoting the agricultural interests of the country ; and I am grateful to the Prime Minister for having selected a gentleman from the eastern townships, from which I come, to fill the important Department of Agriculture. (Mr. A. H. Moore, member for Stanstead, in 'Hansard' of September 15, 1896.)

The introduction says :

Of late there has been evident a concerted attack on the part of the Conservative leaders and press upon the Minister of Agriculture and his work for the farmer. This is undoubtedly due to the discovery by these gentlemen of the feeling existing amongst the farmers of Canada that much has been done in their interests by the Liberal government and minister, and they are so frightened by this feeling amongst the electorate that they find it necessary to try to counteract it.

Then he devotes eleven pages to what has been done in the way of perfecting cold storage, and he winds up by saying that the system is perfect now.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the minister repudiate that ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I would like to see it. I do not repudiate what Mr. Moore said.

Mr. CLANCY. It seems that Mr. Moore was the only respectable witness the Minister of Agriculture could get.

Mr. TAYLOR. He had to call a Conservative as a witness. He goes on to say in this pamphlet :

To-day our products are going to England in enormously increasing quantities, and our farmers are there receiving prices which they never received before.

To-day Canadian butter, Canadian cheeses, Canadian fruits and Canadian flour are being asked for and searched for by the English consumer.

Under the Conservative administration the same articles were being sold in the English markets under other names and false brands.

My correspondent notes on that margin 'this is a lie.'

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Do you endorse that ?

Mr. TAYLOR. I do not think that Canadian goods have ever gone to the English market under false names and brands. I would not belie Canada by saying, as the minister has done, that we send our goods across under false brands and names. I am discussing this system of cold storage, which the hon. gentleman says he has so

perfected that we could send fresh meats, fowls, fruits of all kinds over to England and they would land in perfect condition. The firm of Davies & Company, of Toronto, took the minister at his word and delivered a few car loads of fresh meat into his cold storage cars in transit to England. But they received practically nothing for their beef, and have gone out of the business. Is that statement correct or not ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is entirely incorrect. As a matter of fact the firm of William Davies & Company last year undertook to send dead meat to England as an experiment. They sent six shipments. One turned out bad when it got there. They themselves reported to us the whole facts of the case. They said that that shipment was put upon the ship in a heated condition and that they were not surprised at its arrival in bad condition. They went out of the business because they found that the price in England and the cost of transportation and the cost of the beef here did not justify them continuing the business. Their decision was not at all due to the failure of the cold storage system, but to the market conditions and lack of profit.

Mr. WADE. I would ask the hon. minister to see, when making a contract with a line of steamers from St. John and Halifax for the London market, that the contract provides for forced ventilation so that there may be an even, cool temperature all the way across.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Only this morning, I met a gentleman desirous to tender for the contract for the ensuing year, and explained the necessities of the case to him in the presence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. HACKETT. I would ask the hon. minister if he is going to provide steam communication between Charlottetown and Great Britain during the coming season, and if the vessels are to be fitted up with the cold storage system ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In conjunction with the Minister of Trade and Commerce, I saw this morning the representatives of a steamship line which has made the offer of a ship, thoroughly equipped with cold storage and forced ventilation, to ply between Charlottetown and Great Britain this coming season. The contract will be made out and sent to these people for signature in a day or two.

Mr. HACKETT. I suppose there will be regular dates of sailing from Charlottetown ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT. A gentleman who shipped a quantity of apples last fall from Halifax by the Furness line lost heavily,