

has practically closed the markets of the world with reference to the products of the Dominion of Canada. This is an agricultural country, and we must look to the farm for success in the development of this country, the development of its industries, its mines, its coal and wood land.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not find this a very unwieldy volume, the last edition that I have here. It is a book of some 700 or 800 pages. I think that the reasons which have been given by the minister for eliminating those statistics are altogether beside the mark. The persons to whom this book is most useful, the teachers for example, throughout the country cannot avail themselves of the year books of every country in the world. It is eminently desirable that they should have some statistics with regard to other countries. Of course it is desirable, in the first place, that we should have them in regard to Canada, but it is also desirable, for purposes of comparison and otherwise, that we should have certain statistics in regard to other countries. I would deprecate making any change in this respect, I think it is a mistaken policy. How can any teacher, upon the very small salaries which are granted to them—and they use this book a great deal—how can they be expected to secure the year books of Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium and twenty other countries throughout the world? The thing is absurd. I think the departure which is proposed to be made is a mistake, and I hope the minister will reconsider it.

Mr. A. MARTIN. Would the minister tell us how much will be saved in connection with this year book for statistics, by eliminating this foreign matter?

Mr. FISHER. I do not suppose there is a great deal of decrease except in printing. The parts that it is proposed to eliminate are practically reprints from other documents, and there is little expense connected with putting that in.

Mr. A. MARTIN. Perhaps the minister will tell us the expenditure on this year book the last four years?

Mr. FISHER. This item is for printing. A portion of the expenditure in the item we have just passed, census and statistics, is for the labour on the year book. I could not, off-hand, give the exact amounts that have been expended. The clerks in that branch devote part of the whole year to the year book, and part of their time to other work, at certain seasons. So it would be difficult to say how much of that expenditure is for the year book alone.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. This is merely a compilation.

Mr. FISHER. This is not a compilation. It is the printing only and the distribution

Mr. ARMSTRONG.

of the year-book. The \$6,000 we pay the Printing Bureau for the printing. The other item, item 39, includes, along with other work, the work of compilation. I would say to my hon. friend from Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) that when he gets this volume, I think he will find fully as much information in it about our trade as there is in any other year book, and I hope he will find that the arrangement is more convenient. I would say to my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, that the year-book is just going into the hands of the printer and would like him to reserve judgment until he sees it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I do not say that in this year's book the information is not quite as full as in the other, but I submit that the old statistical year-book is anything but complete in agricultural statistics. I have been trying to obtain practically all this session some definite knowledge of the German tariff and have been unable to do so. That country took \$150,000,000 worth of our agricultural products last year. How can an exporter be expected to send to Germany to find out the tariff on the different products of this country entering this market and how our products are discriminated against. I realize that the Minister of Finance has been trying to obtain information with reference to some of the articles, but it is possible that we have practically no idea what the tariff is as against the products of this country which went into force in Germany on the 1st March past? The government are deserving of severe censure for not being able to give that information to the House and the country.

Mr. FIELDING. If the hon. gentleman's argument is good and the German tariff should be published in the last statistical year-book, then the tariffs of the whole world should be published in it. It is very desirable that we should have all the information possible in the statistical year-book, but we cannot expect to get in it all the information in the wide world.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I did not suggest that the information should be placed in the statistical year-book, but that the government should have that information and give it to us.

Mr. FIELDING. Then my hon. friend's suggestion has nothing to do with this item.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. It has to do with the statistics to be gathered from the different countries.

Mr. SPROULE. The criticisms with regard to this book were based on the statement of the minister himself, namely, that the intention to procure the statistics of foreign countries and give them to us in this book.

Mr. FISHER. I did not intend to say that I would procure the statistics of the