

Agriculture. I recall it well as this was the first act of any account that I had charge of, and it was so decimated, so mauled around in the committee of Agriculture, that we had to reprint the bill; it was given a thorough going over, not only on one day, but on several days. I remember the produce dealers from many parts of Canada were present; in fact, the room was as full as it has been in the last few days, when the Campbell bill was before the committee on Agriculture, and it was quite as interesting. The railways were represented there to look after their interests, as well as the produce dealers, and we had at least four or five sittings of the committee. Under those circumstances one would not expect any very extended remarks when the bill came back into the House. The House usually accepts, not without question, but in the main it generally accepts the reports of the committee on Agriculture on questions that are essentially agricultural, so that it is not to be wondered at that there was not much discussion in the House. I think my hon. friend understands the reason now. So much for that.

My hon. friend also complained that the grading was so badly done at the grading station at Guelph, or somewhere in the vicinity, that a basket of eggs that was passed through the station three times got as many different grades. Our egg inspectors report that tricks like that are sometimes put up on them, but can you imagine a basket of eggs going through a station three times without some of them being cracked, even with the most careful handling? Then, of course, they will be in a different condition at the third handling, and will have to be graded down, and a great ado is made if it is but one grade different. These stations are not put up by the government, but by the farmers or by the trade itself. The farmers can use them or not; it is optional with them. We will supply the farmers with the candling equipment without cost to them, and we are doing it when it is requested, and sometimes without a request, where we think it is required. We will send them the candling equipment, at no cost to themselves, everything except the light. So the question of the cost of the grading can be eliminated. It is optional with the farmers whether they use the grading station or not, and as I said before, the grading station is put up frequently by the trade itself for the convenience of the farmers.

My hon. friend also referred to the egg graders being appointed by the Civil Service Commission. I wish someone would tell me

how to get an inspector appointed without having to go to the commission. I would try it, I think; as a matter of fact, I did try it at first, and I failed. I have not got very much fault to find with the Civil Service Commission as such, but they are governed by an abominable act which I never had any use for and never will have, and if there is anything wrong with the egg inspectors you can lay it right at the door, not so much of the commission, as of this act. We have nothing whatever to do with the selection of the egg inspectors. We have to accept the commission's appointments; that is the trouble.

My good friend indicates that the farmers' wives particularly are imposed upon by these regulations. I have taken particular interest in the attitude of the Ontario farm women in regard to this matter. As every member of the House knows the revenue from the eggs and poultry goes to the farm women.

Miss MACPHAIL: And that is all.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I remember attending a meeting at Chatham the year after these regulations were framed and there was great excitement there. There was a great crowd of women on hand, and I saw a number of them in the drawing room of the hotel. I could not help wondering which side they were on, because I thought they were going to win; they looked as if they meant business. After we had sat around a while and began to make inquiries from the complainants—and incidentally, nearly all these agitations are started by someone who has had his fingers burned by a prosecution for violating the regulations; we have had a few such cases in Guelph—I asked two gentlemen what was the trouble. They said that the whole business was wrong, and they wanted the grading done by weight, and weight alone. That was the proper way to grade, they said. That is I may say the system in some countries. But inasmuch as an egg is only useful in proportion to its fitness for use, the size of an egg is of no advantage if, when you knock the top off, the egg does not suit; the more there is of it, the worse it is. They admitted then that weight should be only one of the factors in grading, and under the regulations it is a factor. Then one of the leaders of the ladies' party arose, and soon showed that she was on our side, fortunately. I do not remember her name, I am glad to say, because I might be tempted to use it. She said:

I do not see why these middlemen cannot play their part without interfering with one of the little good things the government ever has done for us. It is rarely that a government ever does anything that is