

money would not be in order, and probably that is why the chairman did not move its adoption. My attention is being constantly drawn to various publications by private individuals and I have been averse to purchasing publications of that kind. Without in any way going into the merits of this publication, I think it is better for the Department of Agriculture to issue the publications of its own officers rather than to buy from private individuals publications for which they wish to get patronage. Those publications are frequently pressed upon us in all sorts of ways, and if we once began to purchase them it will be very difficult to refuse some and to accept others. I have not dealt with this particular matter, but on general principles my first disposition would be against the Department of Agriculture purchasing such a book.

Mr. HENDERSON. I am rather surprised at the strong position the minister takes upon this matter. The Committee on Agriculture having recommended to the minister this small appropriation, surely he would consider it his duty to listen to the voice of that committee. What is the committee for if it is not to examine into matters of this kind, and to give the result of their investigation? The minister has not examined this book, but the Committee on Agriculture has examined it and approved of it, believing it was an excellent work for the purpose for which it is intended. Surely the minister will accept the recommendation of such a large committee as that? As to the excuse that the chairman could not move the report because it involved the expenditure of public money, we know that the chairman of the Agricultural Committee day after day moved reports recommending the printing of certain bulletins which involves expenditure. If it is wrong in one case it is wrong in the other. To my mind the minister takes a very strong position indeed when he tells the Committee on Agriculture that he is not going to accept any advice from them, and that he prefers to act on his own judgment and utilize the works that are prepared by the officials of his department. He may have in his department officials just as competent to write a work of this kind, but I do not think that any of them has succeeded in doing so. The book is got up in an attractive form calculated to attract the attention of people in the old land, and it was the opinion of the committee that it would be an excellent work for that purpose. I hope that the minister on reflection will not so lightly treat the recommendation of such a large committee, who after a full examination of the work sent this report to the House.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). I rise to support the contention of the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson). Our immigration department costs over \$600,000 a year, and

Hon. Mr. FISHER.

large sums are expended for literature of one kind or another chiefly in advertising our western grain fields. We are losing from Ontario each year many thousands of our young men, who are going to the Northwest; and it is very fortunate that it is so, because they make the best settlers and form the backbone of that country. But their places in Ontario must be taken by some other persons, and fruit-growing is one of the best industries in which immigrants from the old country could engage, whether in Ontario or any of the older provinces. This pamphlet will show the merits of fruit-growing in different parts of the Dominion, not confining its attention to any one locality. I have seen a work by the same author, and it was very well got up and a very handsome work; and I am sure that the work proposed will be a very attractive pamphlet to place in the hands of intending immigrants in the old country. I do not think the minister could spend what it would cost to better advantage. If he has a man in his own department who could do the work better and has the time to do it, well and good; but I suppose that his officers have no time to write books, and if that is the case, I do not think the hon. minister could do better than act on the recommendation of the Committee of Agriculture, who have examined this work and recommended it to the government.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.) I happen to be a member of the Committee on Agriculture where this subject was fully discussed. The gentleman having that publication in charge took a great deal of trouble to seek information from every part of this Dominion, so that the book, when published, will not be confined to particular localities, but will include every part of the Dominion, on a subject that will be very interesting and full of information to parties in the old country if they get the opportunity of reading it. I think a limited expenditure—because the expenditure would not be large—in getting this book published would be of great service to the Department of Agriculture in inducing a better class of immigrants to come to this country.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). I find in a late issue of the Montreal 'Star' that at a meeting of butter and cheese merchants in the city of Montreal, it was stated by Mr. Ayer that he did not know of a single creamery in Canada which was putting up butter in proper shape. Another gentleman, Mr. Hodgson, stated that thousands of cheese are arriving on the other side without the vestige of a box. A year ago the minister was going to take some steps to induce the factories to put their cheese and butter into strong and sufficient boxes. It seems to me that that has not been done, and that the business is in a worse condition now than ever before, if these statements are correct.