

got out before the session of parliament is over. There are about 20,000 copies printed for distribution by members, and unless they are got out during the session they are of very little use.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have mentioned that fact to the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. But I want this committee to know that the Department of Agriculture and the Minister of Agriculture have absolutely nothing whatever to do with the distribution of the evidence which is taken before the Committee on Agriculture. That is purely a matter concerning the Printing Committee of parliament, and the department cannot interfere with it. Some time ago I undertook to do something and I was simply told it was none of my business.

Mr. SPROULE. If I were a Minister of the Crown and I got an answer like that from any department, I would know the reason why. The government are there to control the Printing Bureau.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, it is not the Printing Bureau, it is the committee of the House that has control of the matter. I have no control over it, I cannot go to the Printing Bureau and ask the Bureau to do anything, because they say that it is under the direction of the committee of the House, and they refuse to recognize me as having any authority.

Mr. SPROULE. It depends largely upon the number of employees engaged in that Printing Bureau whether they will turn out the work early or late, and the hon. gentleman, as a member of the government, is responsible to that extent for the action of the Printing Bureau, and he should see that the staff is enlarged. The committee only gives the order, but the order may not be executed by the Printing Bureau as soon as it ought to be. The question is, Why? There are either not enough hands employed, or they have not enough machinery, or they are dilatory in their work. They must be amenable to the department to which the Printing Bureau belongs.

Mr. WILSON. Are these reports not distributed from the experimental farm to the parties whose names have been given in by members?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The bulletins?

Mr. WILSON. Yes.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. WILSON. That is what I thought, so that it does not matter so much whether they are printed before the House rises or not.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr.

Mr. SPROULE.

Sproule) is discussing the evidence which is given before the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. WILSON. I mean the evidence.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is not distributed from the farm. The farm has nothing at all to do with it.

Mr. WILSON. I do not think I have got a copy of it for two or three years.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is because it has not been sent by the committee of the House.

Mr. WILSON. I understood it was distributed from the experimental farm.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is an entire mistake.

Mr. WILSON. I furnished a list to the experimental farm of those I wished to be supplied in my riding with these reports and I expected they would get them but they have not gone out. I have been mistaken about that. I think somebody ought to move that these reports should be distributed fairly to the members, and that every constituency should be fairly furnished with the information that we get before the Agricultural Committee.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I want the hon. gentleman to understand the difference between the evidence taken before the Committee on Agriculture and the reports and bulletins which are issued from the farm.

Mr. WILSON. I understand the difference.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If the hon. gentleman understands the difference I need say no more.

Mr. CLANCY. This is an important question which has arisen more than once in regard to the delay in having reports sent out. For instance the question has come up more than once in connection with the printing of certain departmental reports, the Auditor General's Report, and so on. The hon. minister knows that the standing committee of the House ceases to have any functions when the House rises. Therefore, whatever may be done must be done during the sitting of the House. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman who is responsible for that? Does it belong to the Department of the Secretary of State? Who is the officer who is responsible?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The officers of the House.

Mr. CLANCY. Under Mr. Speaker? It would be well to learn who is responsible in order that this may be remedied. It is certainly a very great evil and we ought to be able to trace the responsibility to the officer whose duty it is to see that this is done.