

Mr. CARVELL: At the time of the South African war, Conservatives could get contracts.

Mr. HAZEN: They say they could not.

Mr. CARVELL: There were a couple of gentlemen in the city of St. John by the name of Peters; I do not think my hon. friend will say they are not Conservatives. My hon. friend made a slip a few minutes ago, when he referred to the Atlantic Hay Company as the Imperial Hay Company. The Imperial Hay Company—that was the Peters' concern—had a contract in 1901-02. They were good Conservatives, and they got the contract on the basis upon which contracts were given to any one else. These gentlemen were quarter owners of the Atlantic Hay Company. B. F. Smith Carleton county, was a quarter-owner, A. C. Smith & Co. of St. John were quarter-owners, the Peters' were quarter owners, and a man named Macdonell of Montreal had a quarter. The Peters' have made up their minds that the company has been badly handled from the political standpoint. There has been such a row that they have withdrawn from the company, and have sent circular notices to the trade to that effect. So you see, Mr. Chairman, that my hon. friend is having his own troubles in New Brunswick over this hay business.

Mr. HAZEN: No trouble.

Mr. CARVELL: There are some things that the hon. gentleman and I know which, perhaps, would not be interesting to the committee; therefore I shall not go into the matter any further. The history of the hay business in New Brunswick has not yet been half told. Possibly before we are a year older the minister and I may have another opportunity of enlightening the people a little on this wonderful question.

Arts and Agriculture—Fruit Branch, \$115,000.

Mr. CARVELL: When I was referring to the powdery scab business, I made reference to the Dominion entomologist; I should have said, "Dominion botanist." I want to make that explanation, because, when I come to think it over, I know enough about technical terms to know that it was the botanist, not the entomologist, that I was after.

Mr. TURRIFF: I noticed the following article in the Montreal Herald of Saturday, February 19, 1916:

[Mr. Hazen.]

#### Apple Growers' Problems.

Mr. F. H. Grindley, of the Fruit Branch, Ottawa, advocates the packing of apples, except Fameuse and Mackintosh, in barrels. . . . The placing of 50 cents a barrel and 30 cents a box on apples imported into Canada would practically save the fruit industry of British Columbia and would also be helpful to fruit-growers in other parts.

Since when has it been the policy of the Department of Agriculture to send their officials around the country talking politics, discussing questions of duty and how they will affect the people of Canada. It seems to me it is a most uncalled-for proceeding on the part of an official, altogether outside of his duties, and such as should not be tolerated for a moment.

Mr. HAZEN: Under what circumstances did he say that?

Mr. TURRIFF: It was at a dairymen's annual convention at Hemmingford. It is a practice that should not be allowed. That was just before the elections took place in British Columbia, and as the duty was put on not so much to help the apple-growers as to help the politicians and the Government of British Columbia, surely it is enough for the politicians to engage in that class of work. There are enough of them, when you take both sides, to discuss that thoroughly, and if the Department of Agriculture has no departmental work for this official, would it not be a good idea to let him devote his time to politics and save that much money in this time of stress, when we want to practise the utmost economy? Can the Acting Minister of Agriculture, now that the elections are over, and apparently the extra duty has not been of much advantage to the British Columbia politicians, tell us whether it is proposed to take that duty off?

Mr. HAZEN: I do not know the young man to whom my hon. friend refers. I can only assure my hon. friend that he had no instructions from me to go down and make any such statement, and I am quite satisfied that he got no instructions from any official occupying a position of responsibility in the department. It is not always safe, of course, to judge a man by a newspaper report of what he said. We all know that we often see reports of our speeches in newspapers that convey a different idea from what we had in mind. After all, a synoptic report is only the idea the reporter has of what the man says, and frequently the reporter's idea is incorrectly put into type. So a man's