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became traders in the tobacco. They buy the tobacco from the other farmers and they sell it to the manufacturers. I am sure that each one of those twenty-five tobacco dealers make a gain of at least \$1,000 a year, so that it amounts to \$25,000 a year which is taken from the farmers of the county of Montcalm. These tobacco dealers sell the tobacco to the manufacturers without improving it; they are only agents between the farmers and the manufacturers. As I say, it is a loss in my county, I have no doubt, of \$25,000 to the farmers. If the farmers were organized into a co-operative society of this kind, they would save this amount.

By the Chairman:

Q. And more perhaps?—A. More perhaps. They would make this benefit for themselves at all events.

Q. They would save more, Mr. Dugas, because they would improve the quality of the tobacco by curing it?—A. Yes, they would improve the quality. I might say this also, that the government has sent some samples of our tobacco from the county of Montcalm to the European market, to London, to Liverpool, and also to Belgium and Holland, and had them tested there and the reports which have been brought before the House show that our tobacco is of good quality. But in those countries they say they cannot use the tobacco in the shape it was sent to them; it must be redried and cured properly. Well, the farmers amongst themselves could do this curing of their own tobacco under the provisions of this law.

Q. Have you had occasion, Mr. Dugas, to discuss the principle of this bill with any of your tobacco growers in Montcalm?—A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any communication with them regarding the feasibility of a co-operative system?—A. Yes.

Q. Established amongst them?—A. Yes. As I stated at first, they wanted two years ago to have this co-operation established in their own county.

Q. So it is a long-felt want in your county?—A. Sure, and I have no doubt the Minister of Agriculture would give some help to such an establishment.

The witness then retired.

Mr. J. A. RUDDICK, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, was called and examined.

By Mr. Monk:

Q. Mr. Ruddick, what is your position in the Department of Agriculture?—A. My official title is Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner at the present time.

Q. Since some time?—A. I have been Dairy Commissioner since the beginning of 1905. The other part, Cold Storage Commissioner, was added to my title only a few weeks ago.

Q. You have had much experience in matters concerning the department, have you not?—A. I have been engaged in it all my life.

Q. Have you had occasion to look over the provisions of this bill?—A. I am sorry to say only briefly. I never saw the bill until Wednesday afternoon, and I have been pretty busy with departmental matters ever since. However, I read the bill over twice.

Q. Will you state to the committee what advantage it would be to the agricultural classes, the system of co-operation which this bill purports to establish, particularly in regard to dairying and cold storage?—A. I think there is a great feeling in Canada, amongst the dairy farmers and fruit growers, for the growth of this co-operative movement. We have really very little true co-operative work amongst the farmers in Canada. There is a good deal said about co-operative dairying, but there is scarcely a purely