

Mr. SPROULE. And why are you trying something else?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. This is for a different purpose altogether. This is for cheese and apples which have not been carried in cold storage chambers. The cold storage chambers could not accommodate one-tenth of the barrels of apples that have been sent to England; and the shippers of apples would not pay the extra expenditure necessary for that kind of cold storage.

Mr. SPROULE. That is exactly what I said. The fruit men could not avail themselves of that cold storage because of the expense and therefore it cannot have been a perfect success. Have we had any trial shipment of fruits this season?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think so.

Mr. SPROULE. Then in view of the high price of fruit in England, it would appear that we cannot send our fruit over there because there has not yet been devised any means of landing it in good condition. That is an evidence that the present cold storage is a failure.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The fruit shipments that were made by the government some years ago were experiments, and the government having proved certain things the shippers of Canada have been taking advantage of our experience and they are now shipping fruit themselves. Last year pears were successfully shipped in considerable quantities and this year in small quantities, because there was a small crop here and the price was good at home. When we succeed in showing what can be done, we leave to the people in the trade to continue the shipments. I would point out to the hon. gentleman that butter requires a temperature under freezing, and chicken meat requires the same, whereas if apples and cheese were put in the freezing chambers they would be injured.

Mr. SPROULE. Why don't you provide something suitable?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. CLANCY. What proportion of our butter is sent in cold storage?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Almost the whole of the butter that went from Canada during the last five years.

Mr. BLAIN. What proportion of the apples shipped from Montreal last year were inspected?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I stated this afternoon that about 33,000 barrels were inspected out of probably 300,000. It would be a physical impossibility to inspect all the apples shipped during the three months of the shipping season.

Mr. BLAIN. How many of these inspectors are in the employ of the government at this present time?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Practically all of them. They are coming here next week to have a conference and will spend a week at the Experimental Farm with the Horticulturalist, studying the spraying of fruit trees and their growth and their management, so as to be able to do that educational work which is part of our scheme.

Mr. BLAIN. They are all on your pay list at the present moment?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think so.

Mr. TAYLOR. When was this shipment of beef made that went wrong, and by whom was it made?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not know exactly when it was made, but it was made by the William Davies Packing Company, of Toronto.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is exactly what I have been informed. Their shipment arrived in bad condition and they have gone out of the business simply because the cold storage system which the Minister of Agriculture said was perfect was found to be of no use whatever. The minister professed to take the meat in refrigerator cars in Toronto, ship it in cold storage in Montreal and land it safely in cold storage in England, and Davies and Sons sent their beef in his charge and it went wrong. His cold storage was a complete failure. One of my constituents has forwarded me a little book lately published by the Minister of Agriculture, and I presume distributed all over the Dominion. My constituent took the cover off but—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. When was it issued?

Mr. TAYLOR. Lately. It is addressed to the farmers of Canada, and pretends to give some facts to the farmers.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think that was published in 1900.

Mr. TAYLOR. It has lately been distributed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It has not been distributed since then.

Mr. TAYLOR. I got one of them through the mail the other day.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. You are behind the times.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will read a sentence or two and the minister will see that there are some references in it to things that happened later than 1900.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. What is the date?