

gentleman has said concerning fish as a food and its desirability on the table, but I think the matter he refers to really comes within the purview of the Department of Marine and Fisheries rather than that of Agriculture. Under our Cold Storage Act as amended some time ago, our assistance is only given to municipally-owned cold storage plants. With regard to what my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Leger) had to say with reference to the establishment of a cold storage plant in the Maritime Provinces, at Halifax, I am sorry that he was not included on the committee at that time. The committee, I thought, was selected very carefully. Did I understand him to say that he had received no intimation from the chairman?

Mr. LEGER: That is it.

Mr. McMASTER: He was chosen but not called.

Mr. TOLMIE: We have looked into this matter very carefully. We sent representatives of the Live Stock Branch to the Maritime Provinces to look into the supply of live stock that would be necessary to maintain a cold storage plant and abattoir. We found on investigation that the volume of the supply would not be sufficient, and on the recommendation of our Live Stock Commissioner we have assisted in the co-operative marketing of livestock down there, and in stimulating its production. Marketing is one of our principal features, because I have always felt that farmers will produce if they believe they can sell at a reasonable profit. We hope that just as soon as the volume increases sufficiently to warrant it, a cold storage plant may be established in some spot in that section of the country. When we take into consideration the export of dressed beef, there is no doubt that a large cold storage plant situated down there would be of the greatest importance. It has been suggested that cattle raised in Alberta and the Prairie Provinces should be loaded on cars and slaughtered at Atlantic Ports, but I have not yet received sufficient information to convince me that that would be a success. There are a good many objections. In the first place, a finished steer on the prairies will dress out about 60 per cent. of beef, so on every steer weighing only one thousand pounds—and that would be a light steer—there would be 400 pounds of by-product, which might just as well be kept in the West. But undoubtedly if shipments became general, we would need a cold storage plant in that section of the country as an assembling plant be-

fore loading on the ships. I have known one well-known western shipper of dressed beef, located in Calgary, who had to return a whole train load of beef to Montreal to have it properly iced and taken care of because it did not connect with the vessel on the Atlantic. I can assure my hon. friend that we are studying that situation and its prospects. At the present time with the prevailing price of beef, we cannot overlook the competition of the Argentine. They are able to produce beef very much more cheaply than we can. We are quite alive to the subject, however, and as soon as there is a sufficient volume of business, I shall be glad to assist in the establishment of a cold storage plant in that part of the country.

Mr. LEGER: The explanation given by the minister, that the available supply would not be sufficient to justify the establishment of a cold storage plant, is satisfactory. I think, however, that everything should be done to encourage the farmers in that part of the country, and I am sure that a cold storage plant there would encourage the production of beef. The production of beef cannot very well be increased at the present time, because we have not the facilities for receiving the meat. However, I am glad to learn that in a very short while when the available supply has increased, the minister will be glad to assist the farmers in that part of the country. I am sure that his statement will greatly encourage them.

Mr. TOLMIE: I might point out that any municipality, such as Halifax, can obtain assistance now from the Federal Government, to the extent of 35 per cent, in building a cold storage plant.

Mr. MICHAUD: Have you only one cold storage in the whole Maritime Provinces?

Mr. DUFF: Do I understand the minister to say that under the Act assistance is given to the establishment of cold storage plants, but not to those intended for fish or fish products? If the plant that is contemplated to be built at Halifax is built, would it not be able to take care of the products of the sea? I should like to know whether under our present Act the minister cannot assist in the establishment of a cold storage plant for fish purposes?

Mr. TOLMIE: Under our present Act we are only granting assistance to municipalities. Some of them, I understand, do store fish. At all events, they can store anything they want in the way of fish. Un-