

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have just received a memorandum from Professor Robertson which says that as far as the Lancaster station is concerned the chickens were taken with a disease and that was the only station which that occurred. At the Whitby station the expenditures were as I have stated. At Lancaster there was an epidemic of which most of the chickens died.

Mr. TAYLOR. Is it not a fact that they spoiled in cold storage ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No. They did not go to England at all.

Mr. CLANCY. I think I heard it stated that Canadian birds had been fattened too much, and that they were to some extent unsaleable, because when they were sent to England they were found to be too large.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is a fancy market in England which takes a large bird and pays an extra price for it, and there is another market which prefers a smaller bird. Some of those dealers who wanted smaller birds complained that the birds we sent them were too large, and consequently we sent the large birds to the market which required such and which pays a larger price per pound.

Mr. TAYLOR. I find here that Mr. Horace Hazard of the Charlottetown poultry station spent \$499, received \$94, and had a deficit of \$405. What became of that \$405 ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not the details, but I can tell the hon. gentleman that the chickens sold at a good profit on the cost of the actual chickens purchased to fatten. At each of these stations we have got to do installation and educational and experimental work, which cannot be charged in a commercial sense against the chickens. We have kept a strict account of the cost of the production of every shipment made this year, and it shows a large margin on the profit side. Last fall, on all the shipments that were made, we netted 13 cents a pound at Montreal, and to any one who has raised chickens it will be evident that there is a large profit at such a price.

Mr. FOWLER. It strikes me that the Minister of Agriculture in his chicken experiment has had a somewhat similar experience to that Horace Greeley had with his pig. That may be occasioned by the class of men to whom he entrusted the working out of this experiment. There was a chicken fattening station in my county at Sussex, and without knowing whether the results were successful or otherwise, I can say that the gentleman who managed it had no experience whatever in that line.

Mr. BENNETT. Was he a lawyer ?

Mr. TAYLOR.

Mr. FOWLER. No; he did not have the training that a lawyer would have. He was a sort of an agent who sold carriages and agricultural implements. I would like to know if he was successful in his operations ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am informed that he was.

Mr. FOWLER. I am glad to know that.

Mr. TAYLOR. I can tell my hon. friend how successful he was.

Mr. FOWLER. Perhaps it is as well, because the minister has a peculiar idea about success.

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, Mr. McArthur charged \$297 to fatten the chickens, and he sold them at \$198, leaving \$99 of a deficit.

Mr. FOWLER. That was very successful.

Mr. TAYLOR. There was another station at Alberton, in Prince Edward Island, where the expenses were \$249, and the receipts \$154, leaving a deficit of about \$100. Mr. Matthews was in charge of that station, and my hon. friend (Mr. Hackett) can tell whether he is a professional or not.

Mr. FOWLER. So far as the chicken business is concerned, the Minister of Agriculture had better fly the coop.

Mr. HACKETT. I hope the minister will give me the information now, which I asked from him the other day as regards the sale of chickens from the Alberton station. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) referred to Mr. Horace Hazard, of Charlottetown. I can say that Mr. Horace Hazard knows nothing whatever about fattening chickens. He is a commission merchant in Charlottetown, and I do not know how his name got mixed up with fattening chickens, because I think he could repudiate the idea that he is a chicken fattener. He does a large business in Prince Edward Island; he is one of the largest exporters in the province and he is not in the chicken fattening line at all. If the hon. gentleman from West Queen's (Mr. Farquharson) were in his seat, he would remember that Mr. Hazard was going to be his opponent at the last election, and now we find that Mr. Hazard is in some way brought in connection with fattening chickens.

Mr. COCHRANE. He is a kind of political rooster.

Mr. HACKETT. Mr. Hazard having made this amount of money out of fattening chickens with the least possible difficulty, he was able to retire to make way for the member for West Queen's. If Mr. Hazard had not that fattening chicken job, he would certainly have contested the election against the hon. member (Mr. Farquharson). But the gentlemen who now occupy the