

Mr. MORPHY.—That is the Chamberlain who was in my county last year talking reciprocity.

Mr. SCOTT.—I never saw him.

He was not in the employ of the government permanently. He was only for a limited period.

Mr. MORPHY.—I am glad to hear you say so. I hope it is not as bad as I thought it was.

Q. I notice that in the report Mr. Sutherland has here there are a large number of counties in Ontario that did not have an agent at all: Why?

A. We originally had about 175 agents altogether, when the thing was first started, in the year about 1907, I think, and some of them were found to be useless.

Q. Why were others not appointed in their places?

A. Oh well, I could not tell you that. At the present time there is a memorandum, I have asked the Minister for permission to appoint a certain number.

Q. How is it that there are 25 agents for Western Canada and only five for the whole of Ontario?

A. That is a different question, you are speaking now of the farmer delegates to the Old Country—I couldn't tell you that.

Q. Has it been brought to the attention of the Minister?

A. To the attention of the Minister?

Q. Yes, all these questions?

A. I can simply appoint those the Minister directs me to appoint, I make no suggestions to him.

Q. Do you not make a suggestion as deputy?

A. I am not a deputy.

Q. In your position have you no authority, power, right or duty imposed upon you to take note of the proceedings of this committee and lay any salient points that are dealt with here before the Minister?

A. No sir.

Q. Then as I understand the situation you are here merely to deliver a certain address?

A. To give you information.

Q. Then to my mind the sooner we have the powers and authority of this committee changed so as to enable us to dig into these matters and have the responsible men before us, the better it will be for agriculture in Canada.

You are supposed to report to the Minister every year, are you not, a list of those distributing agents who have failed in their duty to place men on the farms in their district?

A. No, I simply make the annual report to the department.

Q. You make no reference to the fact that there might be twenty or thirty of these men holding appointments who are doing absolutely nothing?

A. No.

Q. Can you tell me under whose province that will come?

A. I could not say that: if I get instructions to appoint a man I make the appointment, and if I get instructions to dismiss a man I give him his dismissal.

Q. If a man has been there four or five years and has not placed a single man is that shown in the report?

A. I do not think so, no.

Q. No attention is paid to that whatever?

A. No.

Q. That accounts for so many counties in Ontario failing to get any men?

A. That is a matter for the member for the county, he generally looks after that.