

year we are only spending about \$32,000. As a matter of fact, the expenditure upon this cold storage accommodation is decreasing although the service is largely increasing, and this is due to the fact that the service has become a necessity to the trade. Out of this vote we have to pay a large number of services, which we did not have to pay in the beginning. We are paying the salaries and expenses of our agents in England, whom we have increased.

Mr. WADE. Is it the intention to make any provision for forced ventilation in steamships carrying fruit from the lower provinces? I refer to subsidized steamers. The general opinion among the shippers is that forced ventilation is all that is necessary to carry apples across, which will keep the temperature down to 40 degrees. If that is not done, any subsidies granted would be really detrimental because they would prevent competition and thus prevent other steamship lines introducing ventilation.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I explained some time ago that I proposed to ask a considerable vote in the supplementaries to deal with that question, and propose to grant the same provision to vessels in the maritime provinces as in the St. Lawrence. I propose to have not only forced ventilation with fans but even to go so far as to force cold air through the holds.

Mr. ROBINSON (West Elgin). I see by the paper that the British troops in the future are to be fed with British beef. Does that not include Canadian beef?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have no information beyond what the hon. gentleman has himself, but I gather from the reports that, under that regulation, beef will be used only from animals raised in the old country.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.) I hope the hon. minister will not think of discontinuing or curtailing the cold storage system, but that he will extend it year after year. There is scarcely one point in connection with this subject in which the colony of New Zealand is not far in advance of us. In that colony, butter is graded by government officers, and cold stores are provided by the government at the different ports of shipment, in which stores the products of the country are allowed to remain for about a month free of charge. In this respect and in about fifty other respects in connection with the export trade, we are far, far behind the colony of New Zealand, where they own their own railways and their own telephone and telegraph lines, where the greatest portion of the life insurance is done by the government, and where the government lends money at a low rate of interest to farmers who come and settle in the country.

Mr. FISHER.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I think the matter which has been brought to the attention of the government by the hon. member from Centre Wellington (Mr. McGowan) is well deserving of a good deal of consideration. From the figures which have been supplied by Prof. Robertson, it seems that Canada does fairly well so far as the exportation of cattle is concerned. On the other hand, when you look at the exports of dressed beef from the United States to England, you see that they have steadily increased from 1891 to the present time. For example, in 1891 the value of dressed beef exported from the United States to Great Britain was \$15,322,054. That trade increased year by year, so that in 1899 it amounted to \$23,545,185. From that amount it increased in 1900 to \$29,642,830, an increase of about \$6,000,000. So far as Canada is concerned, it appears our exportation of dressed beef to Great Britain amounts to practically nothing. Now, there must be some reason why we do fairly well so far as the exportation of live cattle is concerned, while we do nothing in the exportation of dressed beef. I can attribute it to nothing but to lack of facilities as compared with the United States. Going back to what I mentioned to the committee before six o'clock, I think it is highly probable that a good deal of the facilities which we provide at Montreal are made use of by Chicago exporters. Does the hon. gentleman know whether that is the case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Only when there is no Canadian produce going forward. Our contracts read that Canadian products must have the preference. And, as a matter of fact in the public cold storage chambers that we subsidize, there are practically no American goods.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The gentleman who gave me information on this matter gave that as a possible reason why he could not get space.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is from Portland in the winter, when we have no control over it.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). That may be the explanation. But is there not some reason why our exports of dressed beef amount to practically nothing while our exports of cattle are of substantial amount? And is there any hope in the future of increasing the exports of dressed beef? Another matter that I have brought to his attention is the desirability of giving such assistance to the transportation of fresh fish from the province of Nova Scotia to Quebec and Ontario, as is given at the present time to other products. The hon. gentleman stated that that was a matter which he would take into consideration. Now, my hon. friend from Centre Wellington has brought to the hon. minister's at-