

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have pointed out that this kind of work has been conducted in a dozen different stations all over the country for the purpose of illustrating what can be done. One of these stations was in the far west of Ontario, another is at Renfrew, and other is in central Ontario, at Bowmanville.

Mr. CLARKE. The information which the farmers of Ontario will obtain from the Bowmanville station ought to be accompanied by some further information, because those of them who only see or hear of the Auditor General's Report, will only know that this station cost \$225.29 and yielded receipts of 66 cents. Will they be edified by getting that information?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think they will appreciate what has been done.

Mr. CLARKE. Would it not be better for the minister to give further particulars as to the results which he has attained in this station at Bowmanville? We all appreciate the efforts which are made to give our farmers increased knowledge as to the profitable raising of poultry, but the way these accounts are presented will not leave a favourable impression upon the mind of the ordinary reader. If the hon. gentleman is going to issue any more pamphlets, let him give us some memoranda that will show to the people any benefit there may be from the expenditure of this money at Bowmanville.

Mr. FOWLER. So far as we can see, the result of this experiment at Bowmanville will be to deter the farmer from going into the chicken business. But we have a similar result at Renfrew, where the receipts are very much larger, it is true, but still there is a great disparity between the receipts and the expenditure. I know the experiments at the Sussex station, which the minister has partly discontinued, were very disastrous. I think the receipts were only about 25 per cent of the expenditure. The only way in which the hon. minister could possibly get any advantage is by issuing bulletins from these different stations, because all the information that the country has is what is contained in the Auditor General's Report. As the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) has pointed out, I do not know how the farmers are going to read between the lines or how they will regard it as a very valuable work unless it be from the standpoint that it is a good business to keep clear of as far as the farmer is concerned. Unless the hon. minister has bulletins issued to the farmers or has farmers' excursions arranged to bring them in, and let them see how the chicken is properly fattened and the egg properly hatched, I do not see where any beneficial results can possibly be attained, and I throw out that suggestion to the hon. minister in

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order that he may try and improve matters in the future if he proposes to continue his chicken fattening experiments.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman made the statement a few moments ago in order to try and lead the House and the country to believe that he was doing what was fair for the province of Ontario. He said he had established one station at Holmesville in western Ontario, one at Renfrew in eastern Ontario, and one at Bowmanville in central Ontario. If he will look at the Auditor General's Report he will find that on the next farm, at Whitby, he has established another. Whitby is in South Ontario and Bowmanville is in West Durham, two adjoining Grit constituencies, and the gentlemen running these stations are known to be the worst Grit heelers in that section of the country. Mr. Foley, at Bowmanville, every one knows, is one of the faithful, while Mr. Brant, who lives a few miles out of Whitby, everybody knows, is one of the leading politicians in that section of the country and knows nothing more about fattening chickens than the hon. minister himself does. He got \$638.41 and returned \$266.63, making a loss of about \$400. He drew out of that for services from April 1 to December 24, 1901, \$382, and the balance went for supplies; 3,800 pounds oat chop, 12 bushels corn, skim milk, 9,210 pounds, &c., and there is a deficiency of \$400 in this case. Central Ontario had to have two stations adjoining each other. The hon. minister tried to lead the House and the country to believe there was only one.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Was that not in the year before?

Mr. TAYLOR. This is all in the last Auditor General's Report.

Mr. HOLMES. Just for the benefit of the hon. member for King's, N.B. (Mr. Fowler), who suggests the holding of farmers' excursions, of course, jocularly, I may say that hundreds of people from all over that section of the country have visited the poultry station at Holmesville. I hope hon. gentlemen opposite do not think that Holmesville has any special connection with myself because it happens to have my name. I am sorry to say that nearly all of the residents there vote against me. At the same time I venture to make the statement that if the hon. Minister of Agriculture could see his way clear to establishing a poultry station in every county in Ontario the people of Ontario would endorse his action in doing so. The people of the locality who have had an opportunity of seeing the work that is being done at the station are perfectly satisfied with what has been done during the first year of its existence, because it has only been in existence one year, even though the work is being done at a loss. Of course, as the hon. minister very properly suggests, you cannot expect that experiments of that