

single complaint in quality from those who bought them. Everybody who has had anything to do with the sale of cheese knows that if there is the least ground of complaint, when the cheese is bought in a falling market, the purchaser is certain to let you know; but in Prince Edward Island we sold over 12,000 boxes and there was not a complaint. Last year out of 12,200 boxes, only 27 cheese were not fit to ship or sell at ordinary prices, which I think was as low a percentage of inferior cheese as any factory can show. The prices realized by the farmers in 1893 ranged from 66½ to 76½ cents per 100 pounds of milk. Last year, 1894, the prices ranged from 64½ to 71½ cents per 100 pounds of milk.

By Mr. Macdonald (Huron):

Q. Is the cheese all sold that was manufactured last year?—A. They were all sold in November, with the exception of those 27 boxes.

By Mr. McMillan:

Q. Is there any truth in the report in the "Globe" of the meeting held at Brockville about the condition of the cheese manufactured in Prince Edward Island not being what it ought to have been?—A. I did not see the report in the "Globe" but I will tell you what did happen at Brockville. Mr. M. K. Everts had said at Mallorytown that the cheese of Prince Edward Island made in 1893 were inferior in quality and insinuated that they were not worth more than 8½ cents per pound. I said that as a matter of fact the cheese were all superior in quality and were sold for half a cent a pound above the average price in Ontario, and for a price higher than was realized from the cheese manufactured in any of his factories.

By Mr. Cochrane:

Q. Where was it sold?—A. It was sold from the warehouse in Charlottetown to a firm of merchants in Montreal. There was not a single iota of foundation for the statement that the cheese were inferior or that the price was one to be ashamed of.

There is one other matter which I think I should bring before the committee in connection with our work in Prince Edward Island. There have been some rumours going about that the government had somehow been bonusing the cheese industry thereby means of payments on account of milk supplied to the factories before the cheese were sold. The fact is that \$36,000 were voted by Parliament to enable me to pay advances of 50 cents per 100 pounds on milk supplied at all the dairy stations in all the provinces. No interest was paid by the government, so that it cost nobody anything and was of decided benefit and advantage to the farmers. The people themselves on the Island, the leading farmers there with whom I have conversed, say that of the \$90,200 worth of cheese and butter last year at least \$50,000 is the amount which they realized from the same farms and cows more than they did before they were acquainted with this method of conducting their business. The whole cost to the treasury last year up to the end of our cheese making season was about \$4,800, so that by the spending of \$4,800, the revenue of the farmers of Prince Edward Island from their natural resources was increased by at least \$50,000 more than it had been or would have been if this work had not been done.

Q. Was this from the same number of farms and cows?—A. Yes, from the same farms, but the farmers are growing more Indian corn to feed to more cows hereafter. It is not that they are drawing more money out of anybody's pockets, but they are making more wealth out of their own resources. The point I wish to impress upon the committee is that the spending by the farmers of the \$50,000 of additional revenue derived by them would more than recoup the treasury for all it cost the Government to start this work, so that instead of the other farmers of Canada contributing of their money for the benefit of those of Prince Edward Island the work there has been more than self-sustaining, and the increased revenue to the Government from taxation has more than balanced the expenditure.