

work of fruit experiments at Agassiz will be somewhat contracted?

Mr. FISHER. Oh, no.

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR. I would like to ask the minister if he has given any consideration to the question of extending the attention given to dairying at the Agassiz farm?

Mr. FISHER. I can only say that from my own observation of the work at the Agassiz farm, it does not seem to me to be very favourably situated for the successful prosecution of dairying. We are always doing a little work of that kind there, but it does not appear to be very successful. Dairying is a very important item in the agriculture of British Columbia, and I hope that if we establish a farm on the island, we may be able to carry on successfully there experiments which would be of use to all the dairying districts of the province.

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR. I take it that the experimental farm on the island would be towards the northerly part of the island?

Mr. FISHER. I cannot say exactly yet.

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR. As to the opinion that the minister has formed of the suitability of the Agassiz district for dairying, I think his statement will come as a shock to the residents there, who are engaged largely in dairying and with very great success. It has been a matter of comment on their part that while they are prosecuting dairying with great success, it is almost entirely neglected on the farm, which is situated precisely as the land adjoining it is situated. I have heard there serious criticism of the fact that the government neglects what would be of most service to the only persons who have opportunities of seeing that farm. Without setting myself up as an agricultural expert, and speaking only from what I have heard from the residents of that district, I do not think that the minister's estimate of the unsuitability of that section for dairying will be accepted by the residents.

Mr. BEATTIE. While the minister is assisting a number of cold storage plants, I think he should be very careful not to assist any where there are already good storage plants established. In the city of London we have one of the best cold storage plants in the province of Ontario, established entirely by private capital, and I have heard that there is going to be established at St. Mary's a rival plant which will receive the assistance of the government. I do not suppose that will be objected to by the Chairman (Mr. McIntyre), but it is only twenty miles away, and I think it would be a mistake to assist a cold storage plant within that distance which will come into competition with another one established by private money.

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR

Mr. FISHER. The decision as to whether a cold storage plant shall receive the bonus or not is left to the department, and what my hon. friend has alluded to is always taken into consideration in dealing with applications. I would not like to say that in no case should a cold storage plant be aided which is within twenty miles of another cold storage plant. In some parts of the country there would not be business enough for a cold storage plant within fifty or one hundred miles, while in other parts of the country there might be business for cold storage plants every ten miles. We have to take that into consideration in dealing with the applications. Sometimes, too, by reason of railway accommodation, two cold storage plants might be very close together, while there might not be another within twenty or thirty miles of them, and still, for the general convenience of the country and the help of the industry, it might be wise to have both cold storage plants.

Mr. BEATTIE. All I want is that that point should be taken into consideration, that no cold storage plant should be established by government assistance in competition with another which is established by private money.

Mr. CROSBY. Has it yet been decided to what company assistance for the cold storage plant in Halifax shall be given?

Mr. FISHER. No decision has been come to. There are two applications before the department, the relative claims of which appear to be so equal that we have not yet been able to come to a conclusion.

Mr. CROSBY. I understand from the secretary of the board of trade that that body desire that the subsidy should not be granted until they know something of the company to receive it; but, as far as I understand, both companies are acceptable to the board of trade.

Mr. FISHER. I have not made inquiry yet.

Mr. CROSBY. Might I ask what time the department will likely decide?

Mr. FISHER. As soon as possible, but I cannot say exactly, I shall have to get some further information.

Mr. LAKE. In the Auditor General's Report of last year, under the head of Health of Animals, I see some charges with respect to an outbreak of rabies at Moosomin. What was the extent of that outbreak and what measures were taken to stamp it out?

Mr. FISHER. We passed an order in council quarantining that section.

Mr. MARSHALL. I would ask the hon. minister to consider the advisability of extending the cold storage system to the fish-