

about twenty. Are there any of that number that have ceased to operate ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, those at Indian Head, Wolseley and Maple Creek.

Mr. CLANCY. How much did they owe ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Indian Head owed nothing. Wolseley owed \$2,000, but they have paid something through the sale of part of the machinery. We hold the rest of the machinery. Maple Creek owes about \$1,000.

Mr. CLANCY. In both these cases, there would be a loss ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We still have some of the plant that will be available against the debt.

Mr. CLANCY. Is it the intention of the department to operate these creameries until the debt is paid off ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I would not say positively as to that. Some, as I have said, may not be able to pay off the advance.

Mr. CLANCY. Why ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Because the conditions do not seem favourable for dairying in those places. The conditions may change. A few have been successful, and in the others it is hoped that the debt will be paid off.

Mr. GILMOUR. There was only about 570,000 pounds of butter made, and I almost think that two of the factories alone made half that quantity. Has the minister any account of the butter made in the factories ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have here a statement of the butter made in these factories for the year 1902. I will give the total in round numbers : Calgary, 19,000 pounds ; Churchbridge, 116,000 ; Edmonton, 14,000 pounds ; Glenfel, 38,000 pounds ; Innisfail, 99,000 pounds ; Moosejaw, 16,000 pounds ; Moosomin, 11,000 pounds ; Olds, 42,000 pounds ; Prince Albert, 14,000 pounds ; Regina, 25,000 pounds ; Red Deer, 55,000 pounds ; Saltcoats, 6,000 pounds ; Qu'Appelle, 20,000 ; Tindastoll, 28,000 pounds ; Whitewood, 6,000 pounds.

Mr. GILMOUR. The factory at Tindastoll is a new one. Has the government advanced anything toward that ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We have not made any loans to the Tindastoll factory. We did pay for some small items of machinery. And the money is being repaid out of the season's work.

Mr. BLAIN. As to the operation of these factories after they have repaid the money advanced, did I understand the hon. minister to say that his department was considering the advisability of closing them up ?

Mr. CLANCY.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not closing them up, but ceasing to operate them—putting them into the hands of the people.

Mr. BLAIN. Have they been successful since they repaid the debt ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We are still operating them as before. No change has been made in that respect. But I have warned them that, as they have paid off the debt, I thought it time for them to take up the work themselves. They have asked us not to insist upon that, because they find that the general management of our inspector is an advantage. No doubt, with the whole group of factories managed by one head and the marketing and shipping arranged for, the management is more economical. But, now that they have got beyond the experimental stage, it is doubtful whether we ought to continue the management of them. But, so long as we operate any of them, it would perhaps be as well to manage all, even those that are able to stand upon their own feet.

Mr. BLAIN. Are they run at a loss to the government ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not those that have paid off their loans. Any money made is paid over to them.

Mr. GILMOUR. The government operation of the factories is considered a great boon by the people. It takes the marketing of the produce and the collecting and distribution of the money off their hands. In some cases it would be very inconvenient for them to do this for themselves. It cannot be managed for each factory so well as it can be managed for all by one head.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Quite true.

Mr. SPROULE. Am I correct in believing that the government charges 4 cents per pound for making butter and does not collect the cream ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, for making butter and furnishing supplies, such as tubs, salt, &c., and marketing the butter ?

Mr. SPROULE. With us the ordinary charge is 3 cents per pound and the highest charge is 3½ cents, and they collect the cream.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The cost is very much higher in the Northwest than in Ontario. Any surplus that there is goes to the patrons.

Mr. SPROULE. But, if the factories were more economically run and the charge for making and supplies reduced below 4 cents, there would be more for the patron. I know of small factories in my section that have been run for years, and the highest charge