

lieve, refrigerator chambers in two creameries in this country, but to-day there are over four hundred, and the result is that the butter of Canada is where it is to-day on the English market.

Mr. SCHELL. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) apparently understands but little of the cheese and butter trade. He is making the statement that this was put up for the purpose of assisting Mr. Macpherson—

Mr. CLANCY. No.

Mr. SCHELL. Well, that it was for the benefit of Mr. Macpherson. I wish to say that it was not for the benefit of Mr. Macpherson to the extent of a single cent. And, if the hon. gentleman understood the trade, he would know that this was not to the benefit of the butter factorymen, but to the benefit of the patrons who bring the milk to the factory. Especially is this true of eastern Canada. As the minister has said, in 1895, less than \$500,000 worth of butter was sent out of the country. If the hon. member for Bothwell knew as much of the butter trade as he professes to know, and were as much interested in the welfare of the farmer as he seems to be in Mr. Macpherson's business, he would know that the reason why our butter was shipped to the old country in such poor condition was the want of cold storage. By the time the butter reached the storage chamber in the vessel, it would be off flavour, and really unfit for export. In paying this money for the cold storage chambers, all the benefit goes to the farmers, because the factory man receives only his three cents per pound for manufacturing and no more. The effect of the improvement was to add to the value and the price of the product, but not a single cent to the amount paid to the factory men. The hon. gentleman has devoted much time to Mr. Macpherson, but Mr. Macpherson is by no means the only proprietor of butter factories where this improvement has been made, in fact, there is not a butter factory I know of in the eastern section of the province but has come to the government and got a bonus to assist in the expense of a cold storage chamber when built within the time limit of the Act. The effect has been that, instead of receiving 15 cents or 16 cents per pound for the butter, the farmers received from 19 cents to 22 cents per pound, and every cent of this increased price goes to the farmers.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Schell) has given his explanation. But, I will venture to say that he has spoken without information, even though he lives in the district. Is the hon. gentleman prepared to say that there is not a factory in which Mr. Macpherson is concerned, in which Mr. Macpherson buys from the patrons?

Mr. SCHELL. Not one. He does not buy one pound of milk in any factory that he owns.

Mr. CLANCY. How does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Schell) know that?

Mr. SCHELL. Because I am his partner.

Some other MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SCHELL. Excuse me—I am not his partner in the butter factories, but in other business.

Mr. CLANCY. Since the hon. gentleman has told us he is a partner, we shall be much less inclined to discuss this matter further. We will have to accept the hon. gentleman's statement—but we must take it with his denial. He said, in the first place, that Mr. Macpherson did not buy a pound of milk, and next that he knew this to be the case. When asked how he knew this to be the case, he said: I am a partner, but not a partner in the butter factory—the only partnership that could give him knowledge in this matter. If he is not a partner in the butter factories, he has put on all the courage which new members in this House sometimes display, in making the statement which he has made. In the west it is quite a usual thing to buy milk from the farmers, and I feel confident that the custom cannot be so very much different in the east. Is the hon. gentleman ready to say that this is not the case in any of Mr. Macpherson's factories, either in eastern Ontario or in Quebec? However, I am willing to accept the hon. gentleman's statement since he has told us he is a partner of Mr. Macpherson—and I am sure that if the minister will double the amount of the vote he will not have any objection.

Mr. SCHELL. I make the statement that there is not one factory that I know of in the county of Glengarry, the county of Prescott or the county of Huntingdon in which milk is bought from the farmers—and I have been dealing with them for twenty years. It is not the custom in the eastern part of Ontario to buy the milk, either for cheese or butter, but to make at so much per pound. I might go further and tell the hon. gentleman that I have been connected with the cheese trade for thirty years in the county of Oxford, and, until of late years, at any rate, very few of the factories bought milk from the patrons in that county. The reason given for this bonus was to induce the people to put in cold storage chambers. Most of them felt it was too much of an expense for the factory to put it in, as it would cost a couple of hundred dollars. As a matter of fact, these cold storage chambers were not put in until this measure was brought in and this assistance given.