

Mr. CLARKE. When this pamphlet was published, I took advantage of the opportunity to write to the officials of the hon. gentleman's department and get a number of copies, which I had the pleasure of sending out to people engaged in chicken raising. I had not then seen this account in the Auditor General's Report. If the gentlemen to whom I sent the pamphlets learn of the financial results of these experiments, it is hardly likely they will follow the advice given. I would like to ask the hon. minister what was the object of establishing this experimental station at Bowmanville? I see that the expenditure was \$225.29; and there was a return of just 66 cents. The main item of expenditure was \$150 salary to the person operating this branch. On eggs and other things \$75.25 was spent. The number of eggs purchased was 143½ dozen. There was also bought 75 gallons of coal oil, two gross of screw nails and other supplies. Is it the intention to carry on that station at Bowmanville? Was the object in establishing it to incubate the eggs artificially? In any case it seems to have been a lamentable failure, when we get back only 66 cents after an expenditure of \$225.29. I notice that at the Holmesville station, to which my hon. friend from Huron referred, there was one purchase of ten yards of flannel. Was that to prevent the chickens from getting the croup?

Mr. HOLMES. It shows that they were pretty honest in putting everything into the account.

Mr. CLARKE. I agree with the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Blain) that the country is ready to spend any reasonable sum in well considered experiments. What is to be done with this Bowmanville station? I am sure the results have not been very satisfactory to the minister. Does he intend to keep that station going on? It has cost this country \$225.29 less 66 cents to produce an experiment upon 142½ dozens of eggs. Has there been any practical benefit to the farming community of Bowmanville or of the county of Durham from this experiment?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not got the details of the results of the work there. But I would point out to the hon. gentleman what I said earlier in the evening, that I do not expect for a moment that these illustrations at the experimental stations are going to have any profitable results as far as revenue is concerned. But they are beneficial to the country at large, just as other experimental and illustration work in the various parts of the country, in so far as they supply information which is distributed to the farmers throughout the country. In this particular case, if I find that the station has not been productive of anything of value to the country, I should not continue it. The country at large is asking for illustration work of this kind. Not a week passes that I do not receive requests

from different parts of the country to establish experimental farm stations. Complaints are constantly coming in that the farmers cannot afford to come to the experimental farm at Ottawa, or to those in other parts of the country, they are asking for something more within their reach. That request has been so constant that wherever it has seemed feasible, I have been glad to try and distribute this kind of work over the country as much as possible. That is the policy I have adopted in these illustration stations and some other branches. So far as I have seen, that has been on the whole acceptable to the farmers, and I believe it is a useful concession to the demands which have been made in the interest of agriculture. The poultry stations are doing work that is partly experimental and partly illustrative. The expenditure and the sales from them have no relation at all to the nature of the work. The balance between sales and expenditure at a station is no criterion at all of the value of the work that is done at that station.

Mr. CLARKE. But what is the particular kind of information which the hon. gentleman wishes to furnish to the farmers by these stations? The principal item in the outlay at this station at Bowmanville is for three months' salary, \$150, for the gentleman who had the good fortune to be selected to conduct these experiments. Has he issued any memorandum showing the results obtained by this station?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That was one of several stations in which the work of fattening chickens was illustrated for that section of the country. The same work is illustrated in other stations which I have read over.

Mr. CLARKE. Here it is about eggs.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That shows the hon. gentleman that what he finds in the Auditor General's Report does not show the work that is being done there.

Mr. CLARKE. Then what is the use of publishing it?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. What he finds in the Auditor General's Report is merely a statement of the disbursements and receipts, but as I have explained, these are no criterion at all of the value of the work done.

Mr. CLARKE. Has this gentleman made a report of the result of his operations at Bowmanville?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

Mr. CLARKE. Can the minister say what better knowledge we have of the raising, feeding and fattening of chickens as a result of the establishment of that station at Bowmanville?