

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 46,
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
OTTAWA, 14th May, 1895.

The Select Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this morning at 10.30, Mr. Sproule, Chairman, presiding.

Mr. JAS. W. ROBERTSON, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, was called and addressed the meeting as follows :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—This morning I shall arrange what I have to say under four heads that you may have my work described as clearly as is practicable in the time at my disposal. I shall speak in the first place of the Dairying Service in connection with the various experimental dairy stations established in the different provinces; in the second place, of the action taken by the Department to help the butter trade by shipments of butter to Great Britain; in the third place, of the cold storage service and accommodation through which it is proposed to assist the development of the butter trade this summer; and in the fourth place, of the outlook of the cheese market for the current year. If there be any time at my disposal when I have finished these, and if the committee would like my opinion on the bill now before the House, dealing with the branding of cheese, I shall discuss that.

I shall begin in the far east at Prince Edward Island. In 1892 there was only one dairy station on the Island, at New Perth; it was put up by the farmers themselves. The government loaned the machinery to fit up the factory in Prince Edward Island. All the others there, were built and fitted up at the expense of joint stock companies of the farmers themselves. In 1893 we managed 11 dairy stations, patronized by 1187 farmers, turning out cheese to the value of \$48,000. The cost to the Government for taking control of these was about \$2,500 for the year, including the salary of Mr. Dillon, Dairy Superintendent on Prince Edward Island. In 1894 there were 16 cheese factories and two creameries. The new factories were put up without any direct promise of help from us, but they were put up by the people on the expectation that the Government would give them help similar to that afforded to the other factories in 1893. After they were put up I recommended to the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture that we take charge of the manufacturing of cheese and the making of butter in these factories on terms similar to what had been given in 1893. We charged $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound for the manufacturing of cheese, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound for the manufacturing of butter, the cost of delivering the milk at the factory being paid by the farmers themselves in both cases. Up to the end of December the value of the total quantity of cheese and butter manufactured in them was over \$90,000.

By Mr. McMillan :

Q. Had you not better give us the cheese and butter separately?—A. We had, from cheese, \$78,370, and in butter \$11,830. We had two creameries which were run all summer and were continued all winter, besides one creamery started at New Perth after the cheese-making was ended there for the season. The value of the butter is estimated in part because some of it was held at Charlottetown to meet the demands of the local markets. It is being sold at 16 and 17 cents. The average price of the whole of the cheese sold from the factories on the Island was a little over 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound in 1893, which I think was the highest price recorded by any single factory in the Dominion for that year. This sufficiently proves that the cheese were fine in quality. Besides that, there is another substantiation of the claim that the cheese produced in Prince Edward Island was of fine quality. In both years, 1893 and 1894, the cheese were sold in a falling market at the top price at the time, and there has not been a