

or assist in making them, with a view to giving the consumer the fullest possible information as to the value of the products of the cow. This has been very successfully done in other countries. We are also carrying on practical experiments and investigations with regard to the various forms of manufacture. We propose to begin as soon as possible the manufacture of certain lines of cheese that are now generally imported—lines that are a little out of the ordinary; lines that we pay a very high price for in this country and which can be produced here just as well as in other countries. We feel that this will be a distinct encouragement to the dairy industry. We also carry on a system of cargo inspection at Montreal and Halifax. We administer the Dairy Act and the Oleomargarine Act. During the past year the convictions made for violations of the Oleomargarine Act were 12 in number and those in connection with the Dairy Act, 128; in 1919 the figures were 8 and 111 respectively. We also issue daily market reports, so as to give full information to the producer regarding the condition of the markets from time to time. We make arrangements with the railways to assist producers in securing a refrigerator car service. This department also handles a cold storage system under the cold storage bonuses that are given, which are referred to in an item to be taken up later. That, roughly, is the scope of the work carried on by the Dairy Branch. When you compare the value of the total dairy output for the year, \$252,000,000, with the very modest appropriation asked for by the Department of Agriculture in connection with dairy work, you will agree that the proposed expenditure is not extravagant. It should also be remembered that we have something like 3,500,000 cows in this country which average less than 4,000 pounds each of milk a year. If that average was brought up to 7,000 pounds a year, the value of our dairy products would be tremendously increased. Nothing can render better service along this line than the cow testing associations and the improvement of our sires as carried out by the Live Stock Branch.

Mr. JOHNSTON: Will the minister explain just what he means by cow-testing associations?

Mr. TOLMIE: A cow-testing association is an association organized by one of our representatives, the object being to offer to the farmer an opportunity whereby, under certain conditions, he can send

samples of milk to a creamery with which our department has already made an arrangement, and have that milk tested from time to time as to its butter-fat content. In that way, he is able to eliminate cows that are low in butter-fat. Some cows will run as low as 2 per cent in butter fat in the summer time when they are on the grass, in the flush-flow of milk. Some cows will give as high as 6 per cent of butter fat. By weighing his milk daily and marking the weight down in a chart, and by having that milk tested from time to time, the farmer is able to move out from his herd or dispose of in some other way cows that are unprofitable for the dairy business. By the use of a good sire and by the selection of his best cows, he can often double, in a short time, the output of his herd.

Mr. PROULX: Are those tests carried out at experimental farms or illustration stations?

Mr. TOLMIE: This testing is done throughout the country. We make arrangements with creameries in almost every district where cow-testing associations are established.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry and Stormont): I do not rise to criticize in any way the appropriations for which the minister is asking, because I think, in view of the work which he has outlined and which I know is being accomplished, the appropriation is a very modest one. I should like, however, to ask him if he has anything in view for the coming year as to the grading of cheese at the point of export?

Mr. TOLMIE: We are grading cheese at Montreal now, and we propose to extend the work in the near future.

Mr. CALDWELL: What steps will a farmer in any locality have to take in order to get a cow-testing association?

Mr. TOLMIE: If he will be good enough to drop a line to Mr. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner, Mr. Ruddick will be very pleased to furnish full information; or the hon. member could write to Mr. Gaudet, who is in his own province.

Mr. DECHENE: The minister has just stated that our best market is in England. How much butter was exported to Great Britain during last season?

Mr. TOLMIE: I am sorry I can not give that off hand.