

from the county of Annapolis; R. Burke, from Prince Edward Island; H. L. Dery, from Rouville, I think; J. F. Scriver, county of Huntingdon; T. I. Carey, also from Cobourg, I think; E. N. Wartman, from Kingston, I think; J. J. Philp, of Winnipeg; Barton Gandy, New Brunswick; Freeman Fitch, from Middleton, N.S. The last seven are temporary appointments; the first five I mentioned are for a year.

Mr. INGRAM. Will the hon. gentleman explain why he has changed his policy laid down last year, when he said he intended to appoint only temporary inspectors?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not aware that I have changed my policy. I said the inspectors would not be engaged necessarily for the whole year. But accepting what the hon. gentleman says, I found that the season for inspection lasted rather longer than I expected; and in the second place, I found that this work in connection with the fruit trade was very beneficial, and I desired to carry it on with some of those inspectors all the year round.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister spent considerable time this afternoon in giving us in detail the purposes for which this vote was to be expended, and he referred to the fruit inspection. Now, it appears he has formed a new department with Mr. McKinnon at the head of it, who has under him four or five permanent officials and seven temporaries. The seven that are temporary are not employed by the year, the other three or four are employed permanently. Any person who is conversant with the fruit business knows that their time will not be fully taken up; but he proposes to send them around as active agents ostensibly to talk fruit business generally over the country, and perhaps they will talk something else in the interest of the ministers. Now we have an Agriculture Committee which meets twice or three times a week; that committee has had before it Professor Robertson and the head of the Immigration Department, and two or three other heads of departments. Now, I suggest to the minister that at the next meeting of the Agriculture Committee he should have Mr. McKinnon, the chief officer of this inspection department, there, and then the committee will catechise him and ascertain his qualifications, and the qualifications, of these gentlemen who are under him, and the amount of work that has been done during the last year while this department has been in full swing. I think it is due to the country, and to the fruit-growers, that the head of this department, Mr. McKinnon, should come before the committee.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I shall be glad to afford every facility for Mr. McKinnon coming before the Agriculture Committee. Of course that will have

Hon. Mr. FISHER.

to be done by the committee, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that Mr. McKinnon will be at the disposal of the committee.

Mr. SPROULE. Will the minister tell us if there have been any complaints against the enforcement of this Act by the fruit-growers or shippers?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not aware that there have been any complaints against the enforcement of the Act. There have been occasional differences of opinion in regard to the manner of its enforcement, and the legal aspect of it. But there have been no complaints, so far as I am aware, that it has been too strictly or too laxly enforced. There have been one or two little points raised as to the meaning of the Act. I think one request was made for a better definition of the word 'packer' under the Act, and a question arose as to whether more than one person could be called a packer. There seemed to be a doubt as to whether an individual workman who put the fruit into the barrel could be called a packer as well as the person on whose behalf he had done it.

Mr. SPROULE. What has been the cost of the inspection, including salaries, travelling expenses and all other expenses?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Altogether the sum we have devoted to the enforcement of this Act has been somewhat over \$14,000.

Mr. McGOWAN. Would the minister tell us if there have been any shipments of fresh meat in cold storage, and what was the result?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, there was a series of shipments of beef made from Toronto to England in cold storage. The carriage of meat, as a general rule, was quite satisfactory. I believe there was one shipment in regard to which there was some rather adverse criticism as to the way in which the meat had arrived, but I understand from those engaged in the trade that the profits had been unsatisfactory and that after the trial they ceased shipping.

Mr. McGOWAN. Was the transportation quite satisfactory?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think I may say the transportation was quite satisfactory. There was one shipment in which the beef was heated before it was put into the steamer and consequently it did not keep perfectly in going across. It was clearly shown that it was in consequence of the condition it was in when it was put on board the steamer and that it was not brought into that condition while on the steamer.