

Mr. MICHAUD: I appreciate the information my hon. friend the minister has given us. If I were to give the government a little advice, I would say that I think we have been doing too much grading lately in too many lines. People are becoming afraid to go into the business of production or into any other lines in the farming business. It is about time we gave them a chance to produce, and we could deal with the matter of grading later on. I think there has been too much grading in many lines of farm products.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend across the chamber does not think so.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I am glad to hear my hon. friend on the other side of the House make the statement he has just made. I think if we have a public nuisance in this country at the present time, it is the horde of officials who have been appointed by the government to hamper the farmer in his operations. The cost is simply enormous. I notice by a return brought down in the House of Commons last year that over \$2,500,000 was paid to officials of this department alone, and at the present time my attention is continually being called to the annoyance created by the interference of government officials who are not rendering any public service. This is a serious matter. We know that agriculture is in a depressed condition, and that serious complaints are being made in regard to the condition of agriculture. At the same time we have the minister continually introducing new legislation and appointing a whole army of officials to put those different acts into effect. The minister has just referred to the regulations with regard to cheese, butter, hogs and eggs. It would be interesting to know how many officials have been appointed as a result of those acts which have been put into effect. As far as the egg regulations are concerned, I take it that there are people out now enforcing the act, that penalties are being imposed, and people are being fined. But there is a way for them to evade the act by simply marking the goods that are "selects" as "seconds." They can get around it in that way, and I would venture to say that there is not one person in five hundred who understands how the grading of eggs should be carried on—I mean among those who are engaged in that business. If there is a petty annoying thing in this country at this time it is the meddlesome interference of the minister and his officials in this regard. I put some questions on the order paper the other day with regard to the army of officials in the packing houses of the country, as to the

"selects" among the hogs that were being taken in, and I learned that less than fifteen per cent of the animals that have been graded this year passed as "selects." When I asked the minister what quantity of meat that came through the packing house was sold as "select," no information was available, and yet there is an army of officials in the pay of the government in the packing houses, and the minister has no information from them; but he takes good care that the farmer is discriminated against when he brings his animals in. The minister has just raised the maximum weight of select hogs by ten pounds, which indicates that he made a mistake last year.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Not at all.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Does the hon. minister say, no?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Oh yes, I made the regulations, but I did not make a mistake.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: As a result of that a great deal of money has been lost to the farmers. The cheese has been graded out and paid for according to grade, and I understand that when it is shipped out of the country it loses its identity, that the grade is not fixed upon it and it is not sold according to grade, but it is bought according to grade.

Mr. SALES: On a point of order, does the hon. member regard the graders as insect pests?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The hon. member might better have called the minister to order when he was dealing with this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, I think the hon. member is comparing those administering other acts with those administering this act. I do not think he is out of order, as far as he has gone.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I did not intend to violate the rules of the House; I was referring to matters which the minister touched upon. I asked a question as to the number of employees in connection with this item which is now before the House. I must have misunderstood the minister, but I thought he said about forty. I have the public accounts here; I have run over them, and I think there are about a hundred and forty.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No. There are about forty permanent and forty temporary.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I make it somewhere in the neighbourhood of 140. The in-