

Mr. CLANCY. There was written contract also with regard to the cold storage warehouse at Quebec?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman will give us that as well. Another thing I wanted to ask about was the bonuses paid to the owners of creameries providing cold storage. If my memory serves me, they were to be paid in three instalments, commencing with \$50 the first year, and \$25 a year for the next two years. It would appear that a very large number of these have cheese factories as well. Will the hon. gentleman be able to state to the committee how many of these are creameries exclusively engaged in the manufacture of butter, and how many are used as creameries and cheese factories alternately?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I can get the exact number in which cheese is made as well as butter. The object of our bonus was to secure the making of a certain amount of butter, and those that made a sufficient quantity during the season were entitled to the bonus. As a matter of fact, last year, in consequence of the high price of cheese and the reduced price of butter, there were a good many of these creameries which did not run their cold storage during the summer, and we refused to pay the bonus where they did not make enough butter to fulfil the requirements.

Mr. CLANCY. How much butter are they required to make?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Two thousand pounds per month.

Mr. CLANCY. Are they furnished with specifications?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They are supplied with specifications and have to build according to them, and the bonus is only paid on the certificate of the inspector authorized by the department.

Mr. CLANCY. What is the cost of these buildings as a rule?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. These cold storage chambers are supplied in the building and cost from \$100 to \$200 in each case, and in a few instances a little over \$200.

Mr. CLANCY. It seems to me that the minister is doing work that properly belongs to private enterprise. Here is a man by the name of D. M. Macpherson, who operates ten creameries in the province of Ontario and seven in the province of Quebec, and he is given \$100 each creamery for fitting them up with cold storage facilities. That, it seems to me, is giving that class of men an unfair advantage over others. There is no reason why the policy of the hon. minister should not be followed out when

Mr. FISHER.

it is restricted to merely educative purposes, but men like Mr. Macpherson do not require to be educated. Is it the policy of the hon. gentleman to continue that system in the future?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Most emphatically, yes. I consider that cold storage accommodation in the creameries is necessary to give our butter the reputation it ought to have on the English market.

Mr. CLANCY. Why should not the manufacturers supply these cold storage chambers themselves?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They have been doing it and sharing the cost, and what the government is doing is a legitimate encouragement to the industry just as much as is the accommodation on the railways and steamers. I do not think it matters in the slightest degree whether the seventeen creameries are owned by one man or by seventeen different individuals. And as a matter of fact, if one man undertakes to run a large number of creameries he is more likely to improve the trade than if each creamery was run by a separate individual, and each one doing the thing in a different way. The result of the policy of the government is demonstrated by the fact that whereas in 1895 our butter export to Great Britain amounted to a little over half a million dollars, last year it amounted to \$5,000,000.

Mr. CLANCY. How much came from Quebec and how much from Ontario?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. About three-fifths from Quebec and two-fifths from Ontario.

Mr. CLANCY. I do not agree with the hon. gentleman that men like Mr. Macpherson, who do not require to be educated how to do their work, should have the benefit of these bonuses, because they are well able to look after themselves and in their own interest will take every means possible to increase their trade. The hon. gentleman might as well go around the country and bonus every farmer who produces a high grade of cattle. I am glad that the country now is able to understand that the hon. gentleman's policy is to take care of men who are eminently well able to take care of themselves. These people are fully aware that the price received for their produce depends upon the quality. And the hon. gentleman thinks it the business of the treasury to improve the quality of Mr. Macpherson's goods and so advance their price. I do not think that this committee shares the hon. gentleman's views.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am ready to be judged by the public on the words I utter, but not on the hon. gentleman's interpretation of them. When the system was introduced, there were not, I be-