

order here for a thousand packages of butter, and I want to give the buyer a fair sample, so you had better go down with your man to the wharf and pick out forty packages, for I know you will not be likely to select the poorest samples. I went to the wharf and I found two gentlemen there on top of my pile of butter. One of them was boring holes in the tubs of butter with a bitt, and another had a long iron affair which he was digging into the butter. I saw that this would damage the appearance of the butter, and the condition of the packages, and I said: Look here, young men, I own that butter, and I don't want you to be running that infernal thing through it to spoil it. One of them replied: Possess your soul in patience, young man; they ship tobacco in these packages of butter, and it is tobacco we are looking for. I said: We don't grow tobacco in Canada, and if we did we would not ship it in that kind of way, so you had better leave my butter alone. I mention this to the minister as a reason why precautions should be taken to ensure that when our butter lands in England it should receive proper treatment.

Mr. BRODER. How long ago is that?

Mr. WRIGHT. That is about seven years ago. Now, Sir, as to a matter which came up this afternoon, I may say that I have no objection to the minister providing cold storage for fish, but I certainly do object to butter being placed in the same compartment of a car which has carried fish for any distance, because it will undoubtedly be detrimental to the flavour of our good Canadian creamery butter. In connection with this cold storage question, I would respectfully draw the attention of the minister to the test made last January in Owega of refrigerating by the liquid air system. This novel system was an unqualified success and it has several merits over all other modes. By an expenditure of \$25 they were able to transform an ordinary refrigerator car by means of liquid air into a refrigerator, in which the temperature was reduced to 15 below zero. They had about 200 feet of two-inch galvanized pipe in the ceiling of the car, and in the corner a cylindrical reception four feet high by two feet across which was filled with liquid air, and the desired result was obtained. They can maintain it at 15 below zero for twenty-four hours, without renewing. This system occupied very little space in the car and it weighed only about 200 pounds, whereas a car filled with ice will weigh from three to four tons, which takes up a large amount of space on the top of the car and which to that extent lessens its capacity for carrying butter. Then, when the ice melts it leaves a sort of dampness in the air and it wets the bottom of the car, which is a decided objection. This is obviated by the liquid air system, which never moulds or dampens the butter,

Mr. WRIGHT.

but which carries it to its destination looking bright and clean. I would suggest to the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Fisher) that he should investigate this liquid air system of cold storage and adopt it if possible.

Mr. CLANCY. I expected that the Minister of Agriculture would have given some definite information as to how the trial shipments came out; but, before entering upon that, I would like to ask him what classes of Canadian products now go exclusively in mechanical cold storage? So far as I could discern from what the hon. gentleman said, butter seemed to be the only article that was going to any considerable extent. It seems that apples do not go exclusively by cold storage. In a sense cold storage should be no longer considered to be on trial. It has been in operation for a number of years, and the hon. gentleman, with his usual modesty, has ventured the statement that it was the best system of cold storage in the world. I drew from that that it was so because of the excellent results which the hon. gentleman has attained from his experience since he has been in office. I am sure it would be interesting to the House and the country if the hon. gentleman were able to state approximately what proportion of Canadian products have gone in cold storage. I will also ask him to state the ordinary rates and the cold storage rates to London, to Liverpool, to Glasgow, to Manchester, and to the West Indies, in the twenty-four ships that were equipped last year, and, if he can, the quantities of Canadian perishable products which went by cold storage in each ship.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In a general way, the products which have gone forward in cold storage have been butter, of which practically the whole export of Canada goes in that way, and poultry meat, of which practically the whole export of Canada to Great Britain, not to the United States, goes in cold storage.

Mr. CLANCY. What were the quantities?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not got the quantities. About 200 tons of poultry meat went last fall to Great Britain by cold storage. Tender fruits, such as pears, peaches and grapes, went forward in mechanical cold storage chambers; but these are about all. Cheese has not gone forward to any great extent in cold storage chambers. Some shipments of apples have gone in cold storage, but as a general rule the shippers of apples say, in the first place, that too large quantities go at one time to get the accommodation, and, in the second place, they do not think it worth while to pay the extra cost of the cold storage accommodation. Some experiments were tried, which showed that the tender, early variety of apples seemed to require cold storage accommodation, while the hardier winter apples did not.