

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. None of them have paid expenses. There were twelve stations last year in operation.

Mr. CLANCY. Who are the men employed in carrying on these experiments at these different stations?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is one at Calgary under charge of Mr. Barker. One at Renfrew, Ontario, under the charge of Mr. John Broone, and there are several others.

Mr. CLANCY. Where did those gentlemen receive instructions as experts to equip them for the work?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is one at Calgary who have been engaged in poultry raising, and they get their instructions from the department.

Mr. CLANCY. They come down here to undergo a training.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No.

Mr. BLAIN. Does the hon. minister intend establishing any more of these experimental stations?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There are some passing out of our control, and perhaps some others will be established in place of the old ones. There is a demand from almost every quarter for this work to be carried on.

Mr. FOWLER. I should think they would want it carried on in Renfrew.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is not a question of the expenditure of the money and the making of a direct profit, but it is the advantage to the farmers of seeing the work done and learning the results of the experiments.

Mr. FOWLER. But the results they find out from the station at Renfrew would tend to prevent the farmers from going into the business. These requests must come from Grit heelers who want jobs.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, but from farmers of the district.

Mr. BLAIN. I believe the committee would be satisfied to have a certain amount of money expended in teaching the farmers how to fatten chickens. But I am strongly of opinion that all that work ought to be done at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa. What advantage, for instance, do the farmers of West Huron get from the expenditure of \$400 or \$500 on this experimental station more than they would get from work properly done on the experimental farm here? It would be better to expend the money in equipping the experimental farm here and sending out bulletins to farmers around the country prepared by the experts in charge of this main station. If it is necessary to extend further in the province of Ontario,

Mr. CLANCY.

the hon. minister must remember that at Guelph there is an Ontario Experimental Farm, which naturally becomes a centre of information for the farmers of West Huron and many other constituencies. What advantage is it to teach the farmers of West Huron by experiments how to kill a chicken? There is only one way to do it, and no doubt the bulletin set it forth. The minister is reaching out too much, and that is one reason why the experimental farm here is not better equipped. It would be better to equip this farm properly, and from here send out bulletins.

Mr. FOWLER. In my town there are several persons who are engaged in the poultry business. But when the government came to select a person for the work in this experimental station, instead of selecting one of the men who understood the business, they selected a man, a very worthy gentleman in his own line, who was engaged in the sale of agricultural implements. He had not an acre of land, was not a farmer in any sense, and did not even keep a hen or chicken about his premises, until he was appointed to this work. But he had this qualification, that he was very active in working for the Liberal party. I agree with the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Blain) that expenditure of this sort is quite absurd. The minister, in the course of his occupation of this department, has done some very absurd things, but of all the things he has been guilty of, this chicken fattening business is to my mind, the most absurd. I am sorry he does not carry out what he intimated to the committee last session, when this subject was up for discussion, when he intimated that he was about through with his experiments along this line. It is impossible for people generally in a large agricultural community to go and see how the chicken fattening business is done. You must instruct by means of bulletins, and these can be issued from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa. When you take this Renfrew case, it is most glaring. The expenditure is \$180. It is a small sum, but, on the other hand, you find that the receipts amounted to only \$6.86. Did the chickens die off? Or were they sent in the defective cold storage that the hon. minister has given us, and perish on the way? It does seem to me that, after the lamentable exhibition he has given us tonight, he can no longer pose as the capable head of this department. When we find that this cold storage of which he boasted so long is so thoroughly inefficient, when we find, that the fruit growers of Niagara district can no longer take advantage of it because their fruit is practically destroyed, and when we find these chicken experiments resulting so deplorably, surely these things should constrain the hon. gentleman to plead guilty to the charge that he is thoroughly incompetent and unfit for his position, and should make way for some better man.