

just why he lost that very valuable official?

Mr. TOLMIE: Mr. Chairman, the official died.

Mr. MAHARG: I am sorry that is the answer. Still, there are other officials that the minister has lost from different causes. I have been looking over these Estimates; and while, Mr. Chairman, it may be a little out of order, yet the loss of officials of this department probably is of interest in connection with any of the items covered by the Estimates of the minister's department. I find that the salaries paid to officials and other employees in this department are very discouraging indeed. In one instance, where I think there can be no difference whatever in the character or degree of the work, I find that filing clerks in some other departments are paid \$360 per year more than they are paid in this department. Has the minister anything to say at all in fixing the salaries of his staff?

Mr. TOLMIE: Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out yesterday, these salaries are fixed by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. MAHARG: You have nothing to say in the way of recommending increases to the staff to make the salaries equal to those of officials in other departments doing similar work?

Mr. TOLMIE: As a minister I do not have any recommendations to make in regard to those salaries, they are fixed by the Civil Service Commission. In fact, I think you will find that it is rather against the law for the minister to take any steps along those lines.

Item agreed to.

Dairying, \$175,000.

Mr. LEGER: I would like some information as to the disposition of this amount. In New Brunswick, we have several butter and cheese factories, and in the interests of the whole country I would like to see more of those factories in operation. We have one such factory in my county, not far from where I live, and it is doing very good work. In Moncton there is a co-operative dairy establishment which makes the butter for parts of the counties of Kent, Albert and Westmoreland. It is a great enterprise, and deserves much credit for the work which it is doing. I think we should encourage as much as possible the butter and cheese industries all through the province. I would like to know whether this vote is to encourage such industries, or is it simply to pay the butter inspectors who travel around the country?

[Mr. Maharg.]

Mr. TOLMIE: Last year the value of our dairy products was \$252,000,000, the largest, I think, in the history of the country. The Dairy Branch is under the supervision of Mr. J. A. Ruddick, a man well known to dairymen all over Canada; a man whose reputation as an expert is world-wide. The showing for this year is, I think, very creditable indeed. As to the work which is carried on, I may say that we maintain at Finch, Ontario, an establishment for the manufacture of dairy products under ordinary commercial conditions, and I am pleased to say that this establishment, although Government-owned, pays a profit. We also have men who are engaged in promoting the cow-testing associations throughout the country. As hon. members are aware, no one can tell the yield of a cow by looking at her; very often a farmer, even one who is an expert, may be under the impression that his best cows are his fattest ones. When he takes advantage of these testing operations, he is in a position to know from which cows he is getting the best results, and may then profitably discard those which do not come up to what he considers to be a fair standard for profit. That line of work has done splendid service for the dairy industry, not only on this continent but also in Europe, particularly in Denmark, where it has been very thoroughly followed out. Down in New Brunswick we have men travelling about and promoting these various cow testing associations; Mr. Gaudet is one of them. The creameries and dairy organizations are under the supervision of the various provincial governments. We have a butter grader at the Port of Montreal, and we have five representatives in Great Britain, which is our best dairy market. We are doing all we can to ensure that our dairy products sold overseas shall be of the highest possible standard. We feel that when we are in competition with such countries as Denmark and Ireland we must maintain a high standard for our products if we are to be successful. In connection with the butter grading at the port of export, it is our intention to take steps to provide for an increased production and to ensure the better carrying on of the work. We propose also to appoint a dairy demonstrator, a person who will travel about the country from place to place demonstrating the value of dairy products as food, in comparison with other foods ordinarily found on the table. This person will also give demonstrations and exhibitions, make exhibits of dairy products