

desire to know from the Minister what company or association or person has entered into a contract with the department for the purposes of this service?

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. As this item has been dropped and the subject might come up under items 42 and 43 of the Supplementary Estimates, and as I did not expect to take this matter up to-night, I have not the information at hand, but if the hon. gentleman will come to the department to-morrow, I will give him any information I can.

Mr. **GILLIES**. I would dislike very much calling at the department when the hon. Minister is not there, as I have done on several occasions.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. I must have been attending the committees. But if my hon. friend will come at 10.30 to-morrow, I will endeavour to meet him.

Mr. **GILLIES**. I will keep the appointment.

Inspection of Staples—For the purchase and distribution of standards of grain and flour and other expenses under the Act ..... \$4,500

Mr. **FOSTER**. My hon. friend the ex-Controller of Inland Revenue (Mr. Wood, Brockville), wishes to be present when this item was taken up. If the Government have other items with which they could occupy the time, I should be glad to have this postponed.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). I have been speaking to my hon. friend (Mr. Wood, Brockville), the remarks he wishes to make he can make on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. A special time might be set for this discussion.

Mr. **DAVIN**. In the early part of the session, I asked the hon. Minister whether he intended to take any steps to settle the question of the standards of grain and inspection and he told me it was under consideration. Will he tell me what has been done?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. I do not know that I understand to what my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) alludes. We have a committee appointed to settle the standards. They met last fall and they will meet again this fall. I have not heard any complaints as to the way they settled the standards. The only complaints in connection with the inspection of grain can hardly be laid to the charge of the inspector. It is easy to mix the different qualities of grain after the wheat has been inspected and sent away from Port William or Port Arthur, and I do not think that any system of inspection could prevent that.

Mr. **GILLIES**.

Mr. **DAVIN**. What I referred to is this: There is a feeling that the standard question has not been solved and there is a very strong feeling against the mixing of scoured grain with the grain coming from the west and from Manitoba. This mixture makes a good wheat, no doubt, but a far lower class than the grain that could be furnished from the west and Manitoba. There is a strong feeling amongst a large class of farmers that the buyers, the traders in Liverpool, should have a standard of our North-west and Manitoba grain entirely undiluted by this discounting and admixture that takes place at Port William. At an early part of the session I asked the hon. gentleman if he would consider the question generally with a view of coming to a more satisfactory solution of this matter. I can assure the hon. gentleman that there are still some people in the west who think that a better arrangement can be made than even that which has been made. I know very well that the board is representative of the classes who are interested in this question; nevertheless there is a feeling on the part of the farming community that though they are represented on that board, somehow or other they are not so represented but that interests antagonistic to them can pretty well have their own way.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. I want to know exactly what my hon. friend wants. Does he object to the way in which the standard gauge is fixed by the board that meets at Winnipeg every fall?

Mr. **DAVIN**. I say that board should be thoroughly representative. I do not think there is a single representative from so large and important a wheat-growing district as Western Assiniboia on that board. I know that some men taking a great interest in this question, feel that the efficiency of the board is lowered in consequence of the name of Mr. T. B. Baker having been omitted from it. He is one of the best wheat men in any part of Canada, a thoroughly practical man, a man who handles a large amount of grain, who has built elevators of his own, and who has the entire confidence of the farmers in the community where he lives. His name used to be on it, and I am afraid he has been omitted from the board for no other than unworthy reasons. When, in 1896, I spoke to my hon. friend about the constitution of that board and mentioned Mr. Baker's name he invariably said to me: Go and see so and so—mentioning the name of an hon. member in this House from a contiguous constituency. But the Minister must know that it was impossible for me to go to another member of this House when I wanted to deal with the Minister himself about the management of his department. I would appeal to the Minister to consult with Mr. Miall, who knows what an efficient man Mr. Baker is, and see if he cannot put Mr. Baker on the board. But there is the larger