

the past, it is no longer an experiment; and if the steamship companies are not disposed to install this plant on getting the large sum of ten shillings per ton extra for the goods shipped in cold storage, one is at a loss to understand why the government of Canada should contribute a dollar towards it. If the cold storage system has been even a measurable success, even in a few articles, it seems to me that the steamship companies should not refuse to install even the cheaper system for which they charge higher rates than they did for the other system. It seems that the experiment has not been such a success as to induce the steamship companies to install the plants at their own expense, and that they are expecting more from the government of Canada than they are entitled to receive.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It was with the greatest difficulty that we were able to induce the steamship companies to put in these chambers, because they did not know whether or not the experiment would be a success. We tried the experiment on two ships first, and the reports were satisfactory; but even with that result we had the greatest difficulty in inducing the steamship companies to agree to it. I confidently believe, however, that it will be a sufficient success on these eleven ships to induce other companies to adopt it, or the same companies to put the apparatus into other ships. But until we had started it on a sufficient scale to show the benefits of it to the trade, we were not able to get them to take it up.

Mr. CLANCY. Do I understand the minister to say that all the steamships which were fitted up with the plants for cold storage are now being fitted up with what are known as cooling chambers?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Speaking from memory, I think there are over forty ships fitted with the old cold storage; but we have only succeeded in getting eleven ships fitted with the cooling chambers. I do not know whether all these ships have the old cold storage or not. Most of them have.

Mr. CLANCY. Are the ships that were originally fitted up with cold storage continuing to keep up an efficient plant?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Every ship we know of is.

Mr. CLANCY. I am afraid the hon. gentleman is answering hastily. He has no control over them, and the contracts have ceased.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. My hon. friend forgets that we have the records of them. We put thermographs into their cold storage chambers, and we watch their operations, although we do not force them to do what they originally did.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. CLANCY. How many creameries are now in operation in the North-west, and what is the condition of the undertaking there?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In 1902 there were sixteen; in 1903 there will be nineteen. The increase is due to one, which was closed during 1902, being reopened at Wetaskiwin. We are running two others, one at Black Falls and one at Lacombe. These have been built and equipped by the settlers without any advance or loan from the department; but we are running these for the settlers this year.

Mr. CLANCY. Have the loans all been repaid?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not all. There is still \$16,000 unpaid. There has been \$36,436 repaid.

Mr. CLANCY. Is the rest likely to be repaid?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think most of it will be, I would not like to say positively that all will be. Some factories have not at all done well. The country in those particular districts has not filled up with dairymen sufficiently to hold out great hopes of final repayment; but I think that most of this money will be repaid.

Mr. CLANCY. Has there been some new arrangement made there?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, I am not aware of any change.

Mr. CLANCY. I find that generally throughout the North-west such payments as these occur. Take the creamery of:

Tindastoll B. & C. Association: school taxes, 1901, \$7.56; premiums of insurance on creamery, \$24; rent of creamery, 1899 to 1901, three years at \$172.50; extra allowance for rent, 1900 and part of 1901, one and a half years at \$50; less advance, \$100.

What is the meaning of that?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. These items were all charged against the manufacturing account. There was a surplus in the creamery, and consequently these items were not really paid by the government at all, although the money went through the hands of the department.

Mr. CLANCY. What is meant by the rent of the factory? Who rents the factory?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is rent paid in all the factories to the original owner. That is charged in the manufacturing account.

Mr. CLANCY. Are not the government advancing considerable sums and becoming owners of some of the factories which have failed?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We do not become owners of the factories.