

finally reach the form which perhaps Mr. Larkin might have copied. But, if Mr. Larkin is over there copying misrepresentations, it is time he returned. I am quite ready to accept the judgment of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). I cannot conceive that any man of Mr. Larkin's standing could make such a statement as this. I know what it is to be misrepresented, and I am not going to abuse Mr. Larkin until I know exactly what he said.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Taking the last criticism first, Mr. Chairman, I did not even look at the right hon. gentleman when I was speaking about the question of annexation. Why should he be so quick to put the cap on right over his ears without any suggestion on my part that it belonged there?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the hon. gentleman quote me when I put the cap on?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My right hon. friend referred to it and said he had never dealt with it—

Mr. MEIGHEN: No; I said the hon. gentleman would not attribute it to anybody in this House.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Well, the circumstances I had in mind related to the election campaign of 1911, in which reciprocity was an issue—why the air was blue with it. My hon. friends have very short memories. But let us get back to agriculture for a moment, and to natural fertilizers, not artificial fertilizers.

With regard to cold storage, I may repeat briefly what I said last night in reply to the hon. member for Victoria and Carleton (Mr. Caldwell). Under the terms of a cold storage act passed many years ago, substantial assistance was given to those engaging in the construction of cold storage plants. Until about 1917 or 1918, thirty per cent of the cost of construction was paid by the federal government as a subsidy to all cold storage plants constructed under plans and specifications laid down by the Department of Agriculture. That law was changed to apply only to municipal cold storages, in order that the burden on the revenues of the country might be decreased. Very few plants—possibly only one or two—have been constructed under the amended law. I would like to have advised the Minister of Finance to revert this year to the original enactment providing for the thirty per cent subsidy, but I did not think I was justified in doing it this year. Possibly

[Mr. Meighen.]

we may be able to do so another year when the treasury is less depleted—and I think if we did, it would go a long way toward meeting the situation. Of course, I cannot pledge the Government to that policy. The question of cold storage is becoming a very vital one, not only in my hon. friend's province but in other provinces as well. British Columbia in particular.

The question of lectures has been referred to. I have driven twenty-five miles after dark from Abernethy to Indian Head to hear an agricultural lecture, only to listen to an address by someone who did not know beans when the bag was open. I do not know whether any of the lecturers my hon. friend refers to have been down in his district since the first of January. I am prepared to take responsibility for any shortcomings in that regard, even those which date back to the time prior to my taking office; if these men are there yet, I am responsible for it.

Mr. CALDWELL: I am not referring to anything just lately.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If my hon. friend will inform me confidentially as to some of the gentlemen who do not measure up, we will try to improve matters. There again, of course, I am up against the Civil Service Commission: we can dismiss them, but we cannot appoint others.

I think my hon. friend was correct in saying that the reduced freight rate does apply to the natural fertilizer, and many arguments could be advanced in support of the contention that it should apply to the artificial fertilizer also.

Mr. CALDWELL: I would like to make a statement in regard to the ground limestone. In New Brunswick ground limestone is very badly needed; acid phosphate has a tendency to make the soil become acid, and the application of ground limestone is necessary to correct that condition. In order to provide our farmers with this limestone the provincial government got a special freight rate from the railway companies which ensured the delivery of ground limestone anywhere in the province at \$5 a ton. But when the last increase of freight rates came into effect, the rate on ground limestone was increased by about \$2 a ton—I am not positive as to the exact amount, but that was the approximate increase. The result has been almost to prohibit the use of ground limestone in New Brunswick, to the great detriment of production. I