

Mr. CARLING. The station at Agassiz has only been established for two years and we were not able to raise the hay required. I am told by the director that we never paid higher than \$25 a ton for hay. It is of course the intention of the Government to keep up that station at Agassiz, as it is a very important station. It is one of the most important stations in the Dominion. We want to show what can be produced in British Columbia. It is going to be one of the best fruit districts in the Dominion, and I fancy there is no place in Canada where such a variety of fruit can be grown as in British Columbia. Fruit will be one of the chief articles produced there, although we will raise good stock and other articles which are of interest to that part of the Dominion and the country generally.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). I see that \$118 is charged for papers and magazines for the central farm, and \$13.25 for papers. What kind of papers are they?

Mr. CARLING. They include all the horticultural and agricultural papers; also chemical papers and journals that may be required for the use of the officials.

Mr. SEMPLE. The expenditure on the farm at Indian Head was \$10,828.25, and, leaving out the grain raised, the revenue amounted to only \$449.45. It is well known that in a country like the prairie province no experiment is required to teach farmers grain growing. Every farmer who has practical experience understands it.

Mr. CARLING. Has the hon. gentleman read any of the reports of the Indian Head farm?

Mr. SEMPLE. I have the cost here.

Mr. CARLING. The hon. gentleman says that it is of no use to experiment there. I would ask if he has read the report? If he has, I think he will change his opinion.

Mr. SEMPLE. We do not need an experimental farm to teach the first principles of grain-growing. These farms are well enough for testing the best kinds of grain to be grown; but the expenses of this farm at Indian Head compared with the small revenue, make a very bad showing. The Brandon farm, too, leaving out the grain, yielded only \$105.11 of revenue.

Mr. CARLING. If the hon. gentleman looks at the reports, he will see that part of that money was spent for stock for the farms.

Mr. SEMPLE. It is true, if we had the report of last year before us, we could discuss these matters more satisfactorily, and we might not require so much explanation. All we have to go by is the Auditor General's Report. Taking the three farms, the Agassiz, the Indian Head and the Brandon, they represent an expenditure of \$27,279.56 and a revenue, leaving out grain, of only \$232.61. This shows to my mind that a great mistake has been made in establishing so many experimental farms in different parts of the country.

Mr. CASEY. It is all very well for the hon. Minister to say that we should look at the report. My hon. friend who has just sat down has looked at the Auditor General's Report, and he finds that a large amount has been expended and very little revenue received. The hon. gentleman asks the reason for this expense, and he is asked by the

Mr. SEMPLE.

Minister why he does not look at the report. The hon. Minister should know that he is asking us to look at a report which he has not yet laid before us. In his leisurely, placid, indifferent manner, he has allowed matters to jog on from the 30th of June until now without laying the report on the Table.

Mr. CARLING. Our report is made up to the 31st of December.

Mr. CASEY. It is a long time since the 31st of December.

Mr. CARLING. It takes some time to print it.

Mr. CASEY. That is not the reason it is not on the Table. The hon. gentleman has been too much occupied with experimental voters' lists to pay attention to the experimental farms since the 31st December last; and in the usual slipshod way in which that department is carried on, we are here discussing the management of the farms for the past year without having the materials for that discussion. We have two amateurs running the experimental farms— an amateur Minister of Agriculture, whose former business has certainly given him no aptitude for the position he holds, and the director of the experimental farms, who must have acquired his practical knowledge of farming since he became director. The whole business has been experimental—we have an experimental Minister and an experimental director, and the result has been a lavishing of money to very little use. I venture to say that if a committee of representative farmers were allowed to go through that experimental farm and expressed their unbiassed opinion of it, it could only be the same as that which I now express, that the whole thing has been a costly and wasteful piece of experimenting from beginning to end. There has been a lavish expenditure on buildings for officials and farm purposes, costing twice as much as they ought to cost. There has been a great deal of pottering experimenting with wild grasses, and with such weeds as lambs' quarter, which grows in everybody's garden—all sorts of fads and fiddle-faddles, over which there is a great deal of chuckling in the reports. There has been a perfect deluge of copies of this report of 1890, which I have read carefully, and I honestly say there is not in that report as much information of practical use to a farmer as he would find in six months' subscription to an agricultural paper. Look, for example, at the experiments on barley—two-rowed barley yielding from 16 to 27½ bushels to the acre. Does anybody suppose that these yields, collected from the produce of a-tenth of an acre, can be taken as a guide to the production of those kinds of barley on ordinarily good land and with ordinary practical treatment? Everybody knows that a very large part of that farm is almost entirely unfit for agricultural purposes. I knew it long before it was purchased, and had many a walk over it. I have seen the potatoes nearly uncovered by a strong wind, so light is the sand in which they were planted, and this practical Minister of Agriculture or director chose this sand heap as the place to make a practical experiment for the benefit of average farmers on average land. As to the Brandon farm, I think the Minister ought to be able to explain why it was necessary to expend this \$11,000. Not having a report, we must draw on the immense sources of inform-