

have better facilities for sending our meat to Halifax and St. John.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In reply to my hon. friend (Mr. McGowan), I may say that we have been paying particular attention to this matter of the export of dressed meat. There has not been any company or individual who has been prepared to export dressed meat. There have been a good many propositions in regard to it, but nothing that has assumed practical proportions until comparatively recently.

Mr. McGOWAN. There is a large company being formed in Toronto at present.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am aware of that and I believe that company is to be formed in such a way as to establish a very large and successful trade. It is in the hands of men who are competent and who have the capital necessary to carry out the project in a proper way. They have come to us and we have made arrangements by which in the steamers with cold storage accommodation there shall be special chambers set aside for the meat so that they may get the accommodation they require. The gentleman who was starting the company was here the other day and went over the whole matter with myself and Prof. Robertson. We showed him that we were prepared to do all that is necessary to stimulate and encourage that project. I believe there is an opening just as soon as we are able to supply a steady and constant stream of dressed meat. The English market is peculiar in that it will not be affected and we will not make any successful impression upon it if we send things by fits and starts, or if we send a varying quantity. Those who undertake that trade can only do so thoroughly successfully if they are prepared to send forward a pretty regular supply all the year round, and I think the company to which my hon. friend has referred and which I have in my mind, is prepared to do that. We are doing all that we can to provide the facilities necessary. My hon. friend has mentioned the subject in regard to cold storage transportation facilities. I am not going to pay any attention to it. I do not know what the exact details of the remarks were, but, I would be very glad indeed to have any criticism in regard to cold storage, and I think I will be able to show that the cold storage transportation facilities which have been supplied by the encouragement of my department have been effective and are thoroughly effective to-day. I cannot say any more in regard to the matter, but I am glad of the opportunity to tell my hon. friend that there seems to be every prospect of great progress being made in the dressed meat trade. By reason of our labours we have I might say created—from the information we have obtained there has been created—a trade in dressed poultry

which was non-existent a few years ago, and which to-day is progressing by leaps and bounds in a profitable and satisfactory manner to the agricultural interests of the country. There is nothing in the agricultural world, I might almost say, which is at present attracting more attention from the ordinary practical farmer than the raising and fattening and dressing and shipping of our poultry to the English market. Incidentally the quality of the poultry for our home market has been very much improved and poultry is now obtainable in Canadian cities of better quality than was thought of a few years ago.

Mr. WRIGHT. I wish to say a few words with reference to our cold storage system. I was somewhat alarmed at the discussion this afternoon, because I feared that the excellent cold storage system we now have might in some way be impaired. I remember very well that some years ago when we exported dairy butter, it was often seriously damaged on the ocean voyage. In those days butter that was of excellent quality when it left here, arrived in Liverpool dilapidated in appearance and inferior in flavour. It made no difference to the railway or steamship people how they treated our butter so long as they got the freight. Those who were not familiar with the trade in those days would hardly believe that our butter was so roughly handled on its journey to the English market. To-day, under our cold storage system, matters have entirely changed in this respect. The cold storage car comes to the door of the creamery in my town every Tuesday morning; our butter is shipped on it in perfect condition fresh from the creamery cold storage; it goes in a cold storage car to cold storage in Montreal, and thence in cold storage on the steamer to Liverpool or London or Manchester. The result of this change is most beneficial to our dairying industry. The contrast between the condition of Canadian butter arriving on the English market in those days, and the condition in which it arrives at present is very marked indeed, and Canadian butter is now able to meet the competition of the best Danish butter sold in the old country. The consignees of our Canadian butter in England have written us in black and white congratulating us on this great improvement. It is not uncommon for us to see in the English market quotations that whilst other butter was reduced five shillings a hundred weight, the price of Canadian butter was not affected. This is due entirely to the exertions put forward by this government to have our butter placed in good condition on the English market. Let me draw the attention of the minister and of the commissioner to a matter which they might inquire into. I once went with a consignment of butter to England, and the man to whom I entrusted its sale said to me: Mr. Wright, there is an