

like to, as it is nearly six o'clock, but I would urge upon the minister the necessity of waking up to the necessities of our farmers, and not only give them proper transportation facilities, but give them proper facilities to develop their farms, because we cannot otherwise hope to advance as we have a right to expect.

Mr. FISHER. I cannot be expected to take up much time at this hour, in reply seriatim to the criticisms of my hon. friend (Mr. Armstrong). He complains that we have no forward policy in the Department of Agriculture. Now I must modestly confess that I was rather afraid that our policy was too forward, certainly I have been accused of expending too much money in many ways, as well as of taking up too much of the time of the House. But I cannot agree with my hon. friend that no effective work has been done by my department. He referred to the chicken trade, to cold storage, to the seed business, and to a number of other things which we have been doing since I have had the honour of presiding over this department, things which had never been attempted under the old government.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I beg the hon. minister's pardon, cold storage was instituted under the previous government.

Mr. FISHER. Well, I will not say much about the institution of cold storage under the previous government, it was too futile. But we have done a good deal in that respect, and I think the result has been eminently satisfactory, as has been evidenced by the number of those who are using cold storage. I have lots of references to it in the reports of meetings of the trade and meetings of the farmers.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What cold storage?

Mr. FISHER. The whole system. The cold storage of the government, the steamships and bonuses to creameries.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Has the hon. gentleman anything to do with the cold storage in the steamers crossing the Atlantic?

Mr. FISHER. We have not now, but it is was our work which originated it. If it were not for our work, we would not have cold storage on the steamers to-day. I might refer my hon. friend to what occurred at the fruit convention here this winter. I am a modest man and blush to think of the encomium expressed at that convention regarding the work of the department in aid of the fruit industry. My hon. friend was present a little while at that convention but I was there all the time, and my modesty forbids me to repeat some of the things which were said about our work. That is but a specimen of many similar instances which I shall not further refer to. As regards the weighing of cheese and butter in

Mr. ARMSTRONG.

Montreal, there are occasionally, and perhaps pretty frequently, difficulties, but complaints have always been about the weighing by a certain Mr. McLeod, who is the employee of the Butter and Cheese Association of the city of Montreal. His certificates of weight carry no value in any shape or form, and nobody need be imposed upon, unless he chooses, by Mr. McLeod's certificates. If anybody does allow himself to be cut, as it is commonly called, on the weights of his dairy produce because of the certificate of weighing by McLeod, he has only himself to blame.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What other recourse has he?

Mr. FISHER. He can use the official weigher of the city appointed by the Board of Trade of Montreal, to which by Act of parliament the appointment of official weighers is given. He has a staff of officers quite able to do all the work of weighing produce, whether butter or cheese or any other kind. In the last election and previous to it, I was accused of neglecting the interests of the dairy people. In the eastern townships the Conservative candidates all attacked me and discussed that matter on the hustings. My own opponent brought it up on nomination day in my county, and I took this ground, that as long as there was a properly constituted official weigher in Montreal, to whom the sellers could appeal and against whom there was no complaint, I would not undertake to interfere. If the sellers allowed themselves to be imposed upon by the production of the certificate which was not legal, which had no official character, they have only themselves to blame.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. How is it that Mr. Parmelee reported the very opposite.

Mr. FOSTER. He did not. He reported that McLeod was weighing there and had no official status and that there was a Mr. Cameron who had an official status. The result of that discussion in the elections in the eastern townships was that the single exception of Sherbrooke, the Liberal candidates were everywhere elected, and I was elected by a large majority than I ever had before—such a large majority in fact that my opponent almost lost his deposit.

Mr. BLAIN. The ballot boxes were all right.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, in Quebec they are always all right.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Is that sufficient proof that the people are getting their proper weights in Montreal?

Mr. FISHER. I do not say they are, but they have their own remedy. They can go to the official weigher and get his certi-