

vatives the assistance of these interests consisted chiefly in advances for the purchase of butter for export, and for winter dairying, and in providing for the administrative staff, the members of which went about the country lecturing. The present Minister of Agriculture—practical farmer as he is—

Is that statement correct? Is it correct to say that the Minister of Agriculture is a practical farmer? Why, there is not a farmer in the country who will not say that that statement is untrue.

The present Minister of Agriculture—practical farmer as he is—has gone farther than his predecessors, and has instituted many new and improved methods to aid the agricultural community. For instance he established a live stock branch, with a capable commissioner to promote live stock interests of the country. A poultry division was provided to spread education as to the best methods of fattening and preparing poultry for export.

Did the Minister of Customs authorize the Assistant Commissioner of Customs to write such trash as that? The Minister of Customs has admitted that the assistant commissioner prepared 'Political Pointers No. 1,' but he says it was before he was assistant commissioner. However, here is 'Political Pointers No. 3,' written by the same man, 20 cases of which have been brought to the House of Commons to-day to be franked through the mails. The opposition were abused last year for sending out a little literature through the mails, but here we have Liberal political pointers franked through the mails in car loads, and prepared by a civil servant who is drawing \$2,800 a year of the people's money, to get this trash printed and published in order to try to delude the farmers of this country. This civil servant shows by his figures that the farmers of this country are paying \$19,000,000 a year more in revenue than they were paying in 1895, and yet he has the cheek to try to make out that the farmers are not paying any more taxes now than they were then.

Hon. JAS. SUTHERLAND (Minister of Public Works). I did not intend to take part in this debate, but I think every member in this House must have a feeling in his breast, that he should be fair and honest to his fellow being. It is only fair to say that Mr. Bain is in no way responsible, and has not had anything to do with the items which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has been reading. It is a very unfair, and a very improper charge to make against Mr. Bain.

Mr. TAYLOR. I stated that if I am granted a commission, I will endeavour to prove it.

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND. The hon. gentleman can have all the commissions he wants, but he cannot prove it. I state here on my responsibility as a member of this House, that Mr. Bain is not responsible for writing the sentences that the hon. member

Mr. TAYLOR.

(Mr. Taylor) has read. The Minister of Customs has stated that Mr. Bain did furnish him with certain statistics, just the same as other deputy ministers or officials in various other departments furnish departmental statistics to Conservatives and Liberals alike.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Customs did not deny it.

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND. I am not speaking for the Minister of Customs, I am speaking for myself.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Customs should know better than the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland).

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND. That may be your way of debating, but it is not mine. I have made the statement on my responsibility as a minister, and I say that Mr. Bain had nothing to do with the publication of that pamphlet. I appeal to my hon. friend, as I do to other members of the House to be fair and honest; let them blame a man if he should be blamed, but let them give credit where credit is due. It is unfair and improper for a member of this House to accuse a man improperly, either by direct charge or by insinuation. I rose for the purpose of making the statement that Mr. Bain is in no way responsible; that he did not write the literature that the hon. gentleman has been quoting, and that he is not responsible for it in any way.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then we have one minister contradicting the other?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND. No, you have not. I have applications from Conservatives for information, and I am always glad to allow it to be furnished by officials of the department, and I have no reason to believe that Mr. Bain went any further than to furnish the information he was asked for. If the Minister of Customs is mistaken in the matter, it may be that it is not within his knowledge. I know whereof I speak, and I rose for the purpose of doing what I thought was fair and just and honest towards Mr. Bain. If any member has any misconception or misunderstanding of the matter from what has taken place in the House, I wish to say that Mr. Bain is not responsible for this literature, and I know it.

Mr. TAYLOR. I understood the Minister of Customs to say that before Mr. Bain was appointed assistant commissioner he prepared 'Political Pointers No. 1,' which the Minister of Customs read from.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Customs read many passages from that, to try and make out they were correct. The Minister of Customs admitted that the assistant com-