

boxes and there is a considerable quantity being shipped in tubs. Until a few years ago the round tinnet was practically the Canadian package, but the square box has taken its place, and about 75 per cent of our butter now goes in the square boxes. The rolls or blocks are only for the local trade, and very little if any of them go to Great Britain.

Mr. BLAIN. About two years ago I noticed a statement that a large portion of the butter used in the Yukon was supplied from the United States. Is that still the case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am happy to say that the Canadians are supplying the Yukon market with butter now, and the government creameries in the North-west are shipping largely into that territory.

Mr. WRIGHT. I may say that I have been over in England with butter and I have seen the Irish butter coming into the Liverpool and London markets in all manner of shapes the same as butter comes to the Montreal market. There is no danger of our coming into competition with the Irish butter, because there is no doubt that we make butter better and can beat them every time. If reports in the newspapers are correct the percentage of water in butter applies only to the Irish butter, and if we do not send any butter over there with more than 16 per cent of water in it there is no danger of our trade being injured. We have tried to ship butter to the old country in prints, but it does not keep nearly as well as when sent in fifty-six pound boxes. Occasionally a few of the seventy pound tubs are sent, but nearly everything goes in the fifty-six pound boxes now.

Mr. CLANCY. Was there any conference at any time between the Ontario government and the Department of Agriculture here having regard to the partial system of cold storage that was instituted by the Ontario government?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not remember any conference within the last two years with the Ontario government in regard to any matter of that kind. Some years ago there was a proposition made by the Ontario government for certain co-operation in regard to cold storage work and there were some shipments made by the Ontario government, but I had no official connection with them. That was over two years ago I think, and I have no information that I can give to the hon. gentleman with regard to it.

Mr. CLANCY. The minister is about right when he says that it was two years ago, because the Prime Minister of Ontario was preparing for the elections and he was telling the farmers of Ontario that they would

have cold storage at their doors. For what length of time does the contract run for what is known as the cooled system of cold storage?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think the contract for the cooling chambers covers two payments and is for two years.

Mr. CLANCY. What is being paid for the cooling chambers as compared with what was called cold storage?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We are paying half the cost of the plant, not to exceed \$7,000 per ship, and that payment is extended over one quarter of one year and one quarter of another.

Mr. CLANCY. What was paid for the cold storage?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Half the cost, running up to \$12,000 per ship, in some instances more than that, according to the size of the compartments and the strength of the machinery.

Mr. CLANCY. Two years seems to me to be a very short period, when the hon. gentleman pays half the cost of installing the plant, which at the end of the two years becomes the property of the steamship company. It seems to me that we have no adequate return for so large an expenditure of money, especially in view of the fact that the shipper must pay as much as he did under the cold storage system. Did the hon. gentleman find it impossible to make contracts extending over a longer period, or had he some reason for making such exceedingly short contracts?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I did find it impossible to bind the companies for any longer period. Experience has shown that if the efficacy of the work is once proved, the demands of the trade require it to be carried on. We found that in the case of the old cold storage system, and I am satisfied that we shall find it to be the case with the cooling chamber.

Mr. CLANCY. I suppose these contracts have been made with the steamship companies with whom the contracts for cold storage were made?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The contracts for the old cold storage practically covered all the ship lines which came to Canada, and these contracts are with the same people. There were no others to make them with.

Mr. CLANCY. If the system is to have such a future as the hon. gentleman seems to hope for, is it not fair to assume that we have gone beyond the experimental stage? If the cold storage system has been a sufficient success to induce the steamship companies to put in the plants themselves, or with the assistance of the government in