

Railway Commission the desirability of low rates on fertilizers.

I asked the minister yesterday afternoon, but did not get any reply, what was his attitude towards establishing an abattoir and cold storage plant for the maritime provinces.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I answered that question, but my hon. friend was out at the time.

Mr. CALDWELL: Pardon me. I did not have time to read Hansard this morning. Mr. Chairman, I crave indulgence to refer to an item that I believe was passed yesterday afternoon while I was absent attending a meeting of the Pensions Committee.—Item 52, Administration of the Agricultural Instruction Act. Have I your permission, Mr. Chairman?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. CALDWELL: This, I imagine, applies largely to the expense of furnishing lecturers to instruct farmers how to farm. If that is so, I would impress upon the minister that it is not necessary to instruct farmers as they have been instructed in the past—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I might correct my hon. friend. It might be assumed that this item covers the activities of lecturers, but it does not.

Mr. CALDWELL: I think the matter might well be discussed also under the item now before the committee. In times past we have had lecturers advising the farmers in New Brunswick, not to improve their methods, but to adopt different methods of farming. I am not referring to any particular lecturers, but, generally their policy has been to tell us that we have been absolutely wrong in the lines we have been following, and to advise us to adopt other lines which, according to their view, would be much to our advantage. I think money expended on such lectures is thrown away, because a farming community cannot discard their methods and embark on other methods at a moment's notice. If these lecturers are to instruct us in future, I would suggest that natives of the province whose farmers they are to instruct should be employed, in fact men who know the local conditions, because those conditions vary very much. I think it would be money well spent to provide instructors whose policy should be to instruct the farmers to improve the methods of the branch of farming which they are already carrying

on. For instance, it is waste of time for lecturers to tell the farmers of New Brunswick to go into wheat growing; and it is possible that advice to embark in dairying would be just as useless, due to the fact that we are too far removed from local markets and have no cheese factories to utilize dairy products. If those lecturers can show us how to carry on our present farming activities to better advantage by improved methods, the money would be well spent. I think the minister gave a reply to my question regarding the establishment of abattoir and cold storage facilities.

Mr. FIELDING: With regard to the statement attributed to Mr. Larkin, I want to be permitted to give two reasons why I am satisfied that he never uttered it. My first reason is, my faith in his sound judgment, good sense and discretion; my second reason is, I read that statement, in almost the exact words, in the press a week ago, but attributed to somebody else, not named, in England. I am quite satisfied that the statement made by somebody else, evidently an irresponsible person, has been improperly attributed to Mr. Larkin.

Mr. CALDWELL: Possibly this is an echo of one of the statements made by the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) last fall and still ringing down the halls of time.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It may be an echo of deliberate misrepresentation of statements of the leader of the Opposition, circulated for the same purposes that hon. gentlemen opposite circulated assurances that they would give cash grants to soldiers and other like favours; misrepresentations that doubtless were in the mind of the Minister of Agriculture a moment ago when he sought, in a covert way, to convey the impression that others had declared that there were annexationists in the West, but which he won't stand in his place and attribute to any individual in this House.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No words of mine ever reflected in the least degree on the loyalty of western Canada, nor did any newspaper report that I ever read of any assertions of mine attribute such words to me. By the time, however, that they get on the lips of men who are anxious to make political capital, not for the sake of political reforms but for the sake of office, and to carry out in office exactly the things they denounced in opposition,—when they get around to the lips of men like that, they