

Mr. ROSS (Ontario). May I ask the hon. minister whether all the butter and cheese exported from this country in vessels goes in cold storage?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Practically all the butter that is now exported in the summer time from Canada goes in cold storage. The cheese does not, except in very warm weather. Cooled chambers are preferred for cheese to absolutely cold chambers, and, as a matter of fact, experience has shown that it is only butter that requires such a low temperature as 20. Meats require a temperature a few degrees below freezing. Cheese and apples seem to be served better by cooled air driven through and amongst these products serving the purpose of keeping the temperature down to about 60.

Mr. ROSS (Ontario). Are the ships provided with cooled air chambers?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. ROSS (Ontario). All the ships that are engaged in this trade, or only certain ships?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There were certain ships which had the original cold chambers for low temperatures. We have now made arrangements with certain ships for cooled chambers, but the two systems are entirely different and worked independently.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). Did the contract on the 'Pomeranian' expire last season?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot tell off-hand the names of the vessels, but I think her contract did expire last season. That was for cold storage. I do not think that there was any vessel under contract for the season of 1902 for cold storage.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). I would judge from that that no money has been paid by the government for cold storage for some years, if all the contracts are three years old or more.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot say exactly when the last money was paid, but the accounts for some of these cold storage subventions were not closed up. I think, during the year 1902, that some payments may have been made, but I think, I am pretty correct in saying that there was no ship under contract for the season of 1902 for cold storage. That is for the old system of cold storage.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). It is very unfortunate that the government in making these contracts did not provide for control of the temperature for a longer period than three years. A good deal of money has been expended for cold storage, and I am sure it

has not been thrown away if we have a cold storage service, but when we find that there are a great many of these boats carrying products in a temperature of from 45 to 60 and the government have no control over the matter it seems rather an unfortunate condition of affairs. Surely, when the contract was made, it would have been a good condition to have put in the contract that the government should retain a certain control over the temperature for a longer term than three years.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We could not get control for a longer period than the period during which we were making the payments. As long as we were making the payments we had a hold upon the companies. When payments were finished we could not control the owners of the ships. The ships in many cases have taken off the service and other ships put on and the owners of the ships hold themselves free to take these ships wherever they like.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). In regard to fruit the hon. gentleman says correctly that the temperature should be 35. I would like to draw his attention to the steamer 'Lakonia' September, 1900. That is surely when the contract was in existence three years ago. There was a temperature in one compartment of from 39 to 60 degrees and in another compartment, of from 28 to 50 degrees.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not in my mind the details that the hon. gentleman speaks of. I suppose he is reading from a return which was made to an Order of the House?

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). Yes.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I could not say anything about that particular case.

Mr. ROSS (Ontario). Complaints were made to me by an apple shipper regarding the placing of fruit upon the steamer. The fruit was shipped in the ordinary way not intended to go into cold storage, and the complaint was that it was placed in a part of the vessel not properly ventilated. The apples were in good condition when shipped and they arrived in very poor condition, and the surmise was that these apples might have been put too near the engine or in a heated part of the ship. Are there any inspectors in the department whose business it is to see that apples are properly placed in the ship?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The first duty of the inspectors that we have at the port of Montreal to look after that work is to see to the special chambers which are prepared for products. If they are able besides that to have a general supervision of the manner in which stowage is done in all the ships they are to do that also. I was talking only the other day with one of