

Mr. CHARLTON. I see the cost of maintenance of the farm is \$39,000 in round numbers and the revenue is \$2,400. Is this a correct statement of the sale of the products of the farm? The discrepancy is a very great one.

Mr. CARLING. The hon. gentleman will understand that the bags of grain sent all over the Dominion are not charged for; that samples of wheat, barley and oats are sent to farmers in the different provinces for the purpose of improving their crops and giving them better varieties. We do not sell any, because we desire to improve the value of our cereals.

Mr. CHARLTON. I can understand that the farm would not be a revenue-making establishment, and my enquiry was simply for the purpose of getting information. Is a record kept of the quantity of grain, seeds, and plants distributed, and can their value at a fair market rate be arrived at?

Mr. CARLING. A record is kept of all the seeds sent out, and a report is secured from each farmer as to the results.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). I understand there is an engine and grinder on the farm. How is there an item for \$63 for grinding?

Mr. CARLING. The grinder was out of order, was broken, and had to be repaired.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). I keep a large number of horses and cattle, but I have not spent one cent for grinding food for many years. If this farm is to be run economically, a similar line should be followed. There is an item of \$40 for gravel. Is that the cost of the gravel, or the cost of drawing it?

Mr. CARLING. The cost of drawing it.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). This work could be done during the winter when the horses were not otherwise engaged.

Mr. CARLING. They are engaged then in drawing manure, of which we cannot get sufficient.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). With respect to the revenue, I observe \$466 for berries, of which Mr. Borthwick paid \$263. How is it so many berries were sold to this gentleman? Is there any opportunity given to all parties to purchase berries, or how are they sold?

Mr. CARLING. Two or three of the leading fruit dealers are written to, and those who give the highest price receive the berries.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). I have a letter in my possession making great complaint with respect to certain parties receiving all the benefit. I hold that every person should have an opportunity to buy berries on taking a certain quantity, and that it is not just to sell all to one or two firms, and not allow others the chance of competing. There is an item of \$578 for cattle. What kind of cattle were they?

Mr. CARLING. They were bought to experiment with.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). Then there is an item of \$474.70 for milk. At what price was the milk sold?

Mr. CARLING. Five cents in winter and four cents in summer.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). There is an item of \$125.25 for butter. Last year the promise was

made that part of the butter made at the Ottawa dairy would be carefully packed and sent to the English market. Has any been sent there?

Mr. CARLING. No, not from the experimental farm dairy.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). Was all the butter sold here? I have no fault to find with selling the butter, but we are seeking to establish a good market for our butter in England, and a good quantity should be sent there. We have no guide as to the quality of the butter manufactured, so long as it is sold in the local market. But if we had a quality established in the English market, we would be able to make a comparison. In future, a certain quantity should be sent there.

Mr. CARLING. 20,000 pounds of butter, which was made in Canada under the supervision of the dairy commissioner, were sent to England this year.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). What price was obtained?

Mr. CARLING. 125 shillings per cwt., which was equal to 24 cents per pound net.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron). I believe that it is in the interests of the country that we should have all this information. I think that the creameries in the west which are not under the care of an inspector, get something like 24 and 25 cents for their butter. There are a good many things here that are rather expensive. I find \$15 for making a plan of the farm, and for survey and plan of drain, \$60. If there was a good practical manager on the farm he should be capable of doing all that himself.

Mr. SEMPLE. While giving the Government credit for the distribution of seed grain, yet it must be remembered that we have a very imperfect knowledge of the operations of it last year, on account of the report not being before us. However, we can see in the Auditor General's Report that the expenditure has been very large and extravagant. There was no doubt there was a mistake made when so many stations were put in operation in different parts of the country. I notice that for the experimental station at Agassiz, British Columbia, there was an expenditure of \$7,732.34 and the revenue derived was only \$79.05.

Mr. CARLING. That farm has just been established.

Mr. SEMPLE. I find that among the salaries there is one Dun Lee, a Chinaman I suppose, who laboured 804 days and received \$818. Another remarkable item I find is, an item for the rent of a horse \$240 for twelve months. I would like to ask how the Chinaman put in so many days' work, and also some information about the horse?

Mr. CARLING. I am told the Chinaman was the only man who could read or write English, and he signed the pay-sheet for the others. With reference to the horse I think it is a misprint and that it should read rent of a "house" instead of a "horse."

Mr. SEMPLE. I have made a calculation and I find that the hay appears to have cost about \$46.42 a ton, which seems to be an extraordinary figure. Taking into consideration the enormous expense of that station and the small return from it, I would ask, does the Minister intend to keep the British Columbia station up?