

provincial Government agricultural department, who knows a good deal about the Island of Cape Breton, and he was kind enough to offer to accompany my officers and make the necessary arrangements for holding the meetings.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Is it not customary for the Minister to communicate with members for the island, and advise them of the steps proposed to be taken?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think it is.

Mr. McDOUGALL. The hon. gentleman, I believe, has not communicated with any of the members representing those constituencies?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I have not been communicated with, and I represent a very large farming constituency.

Mr. McLENNAN. I regret to say that it is my impression that the secretary of agriculture of the Nova Scotia provincial Government does not know a great deal about the agricultural capabilities of the Island of Cape Breton, as he is comparatively a stranger to the island, and I must say that the members had a right to be consulted in this matter. I must complain that I was not consulted. To send those officers with a stranger to guide them is like the blind leading the blind. If merely reading lectures in a few towns near the railway constitutes preparatory work, I regret that in my opinion it is not a step very much in advance. I stated here a few weeks ago that delivering abstract lectures to farmers with respect to dairying and scientific farming was waste of energy, because those people have no means of having these lectures properly demonstrated to them. I therefore regret that the department has not seen fit to take more vigorous steps by way of demonstrating those lectures, somewhat as has been done in Prince Edward Island. In that island this system has been most successful, and as regards the Island of Cape Breton, which we may call a neighbouring province. I do not see why it should not succeed there. I therefore feel that greater attention should be paid to this important industry in our midst. I say again that I should have at least been communicated with, especially as I have the honour to represent a very fine agricultural constituency to which these gentlemen were strangers. I only hope that the Minister will prosecute the preparatory work which he wishes to put the people through with more substantial vigour than he has shown during the past year; otherwise, we will rightfully come to the conclusion that we have not been properly treated in this matter.

Mr. FISHER.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman has not yet explained where the \$30,000 were expended.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Out of this vote, Prof. Robertson's own salary and the various salaries and travelling expenses and printing at the head office are taken, this amount being about \$11,000 annually. In Quebec last year there was a grant made to the dairy school at St. Hyacinthe, and the salary and expenses of J. P. Chapais, assistant dairy commissioner, are taken out of the appropriation for Quebec. Besides last year there was an inspector of creameries, Mr. Leclerc, whose salary came out of this item. In Prince Edward Island, there were two travelling dairying instructors. Until last year the Dominion Government ran several cheese factories and creameries there; but the position of affairs has improved to such an extent that we felt that we could withdraw from the management of any individual creameries, but the two travelling instructors were kept at the dairying establishments there. In New Brunswick there is a dairying station at Napan, and Mr. Hopkins travelled and had a school there during the winter. In New Brunswick we had a travelling instructor and inspector part of the summer. In the working of the creamery there a deficit of \$6,000 occurred, which came out of this vote. We had a special vote last year for the North-west Territories, to aid in the establishment of creameries in the North-west; but to carry them on, as at several of the creameries, the quantity of milk was so small that the establishments did not pay for the manufacture of butter there, expenditure had to be incurred. This explains the different expenditures coming out of this vote of \$30,000.

Mr. CLANCY. I understand that as regards the North-west creameries, the money advanced is being repaid gradually.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is the capital.

Mr. CLANCY. Is a portion taken out of this sum to make up any loss?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes; but next year hardly any sum will be required, the progress made has been so satisfactory.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Does the hon. gentleman propose to go into any new district?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, we propose to establish two new creameries, at Saltcoats and at another point.

To promote the establishment and maintenance of creameries in the North-west Territories.... \$5,000

Mr. DAVIN. Why is this vote decreased \$10,000?