

ing. But, from the presentation of the case by the hon. member from Leeds (Mr. Taylor) it appears that nearly all the experiments were failures financially. Will the hon. minister explain, if the poultry feeding station under the government was a failure, how an ordinary man commencing the feeding of chickens under the guidance of the government can be expected to make a success of it?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The stations were not failures financially.

Mr. BLAIN. If I understand correctly, in every case they lost money.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I explained that the government carried on at these stations a great deal of educational and experimental work which the farmer would not carry on, and we have to charge up the expense of it to the several stations.

Mr. BLAIN. How many of these were in the province of Ontario?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Four last year I am told.

Mr. BLAIN. Where are they located?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The four last year were at Whitby, Chatham, Holmesville and Renfrew.

Mr. VROOMAN. I understood that one of these stations at Lancaster was not successful because of an epidemic disease. Is that a thing that happens frequently, and what is the reason for it, and what is done on the discovery of it?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We had about ten stations and this is the only one at which it occurred.

Mr. FOWLER. The minister says that the reason the fattening station cost the government more than it would have cost a private individual was the educational work they had to do. I would ask the minister what amount of educational work was done at the Sussex station which was in charge of this agricultural implement agent, and what qualifications he had for imparting this information? I would like to know also what education he gave the people?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. His work was not a failure so far as the fattening of chickens was concerned. But besides this work the people who came to learn from these experiments had to be shown what was being done, that took time, and the time had to be paid for.

Mr. FOWLER. I understand that the ground the minister takes is that because the chickens were sold for more than was paid for them, therefore there was a profit. They cost, I believe, \$85 and were sold for \$117. But there were other expenses of over \$200. Because the chickens were sold

for more than they cost, the minister claims the experiment was a financial success.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Without going into details, I am informed that the original cost of the chickens bought and the feed given to them was about two-thirds of what they brought.

Mr. FOWLER. The report that was read by the hon. member for Leeds does not bear out the contention of the minister. All these items, with the exception of a few of the crates, were the same sort of items that would have to be paid for by any private individual engaged in the same enterprise. I cannot understand how it can be, as the hon. member for Glengarry said, that on account of the success of this experiment in Glengarry where it was a dead failure and the chickens died, it encouraged the people of that community to go into this enterprise as a private speculation.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is a kind of encouragement that brings them money.

Mr. VROOMAN. I have heard it said the chickens died owing to the way they were fed. Has the department discovered by this time if that is the case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not able to answer that question.

Mr. VROOMAN. I have been told they were fed on buttermilk, and it caused the liver to grow.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think they were fed on buttermilk. We did not make any such experiments.

Mr. FOWLER. Were the chickens who died of this chickenpox examined by veterinarians?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think they were.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.) I think, to remove all doubts, we should issue a commission to go down to Glengarry and ascertain the cause of these chickens dying. But speaking seriously, this business of feeding and shipping chickens is now in its initial stage. Some parties have been successful, and others have not. But people are getting better acquainted with it, and if you allow this process to go on you will find that next year and the year following the export of chickens will keep on increasing in value. One man may try the business and fail, and another may try and succeed. That is the way in every business, because if every man succeeded we would all be so rich that the country could not contain us.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister will persist in making a statement to this House that the business has been profitable, and he answers my hon. friend here that the cost