

Mr. MOTHERWELL: All I can go by is the report of the Agricultural committee. The committee took the ground that the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, like a great many other institutions, was found unprepared for the tremendous deflation that took place in 1920 after the war. They had a certain amount of butter on hand that went down seriously in value, and on which they sustained a considerable loss. They had a number of co-operative cold storage plants that were running full blast during the war, and the first of which got the subsidy that was given by the government of that day; that was given to only one cold storage plant, the one at Saskatoon. However, they went on building because of the tremendous demand for cold storage space, and then when the war was over the demand suddenly ceased, and these institutions ceased to be profitable. It was only one of the hundreds of thousands of institutions and firms that were caught in exactly a similar position. I have that report here now. It is headed "Committee of legislature makes report." It is too long to read, but if my hon. friend would like to see the report of this committee—

Mr. MEIGHEN: They would all be Liberals.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Oh no. There are one or two Tories out there yet.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I only hope that he makes some better success of what he is at than of what he undertook in the past, for he could not possibly make a worse success. If there are any more wrecks the minister may get them positions in his department.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I cannot be responsible for what happened after I left. I accept the report of this committee, on which were Conservatives, Progressives and Liberals.

Mr. MILLAR: I would like to say a word on this. I do not mind the scrap which is taking place between the leader of the opposition and the Minister of Agriculture; they can fight that out, but knowing Mr. Wilson I feel it my duty to make some remarks in view of the reflections that have been cast upon him to-night. I know something of his work during the last ten or fifteen years in connection with the Saskatchewan government, and I think it is the general opinion in Saskatchewan that he is a very capable official. I might point out

¹Mr. Meighen.]

that even though the Co-operative Creameries is in financial difficulties at the present time, and if Mr. Wilson was formerly manager of that company, there are many other business concerns in financial difficulties at the present time, and this is no indication that they were not properly managed. When a capable official, than whom I think the minister could not get a better, is in the employ of this government and doing excellent service, which I believe he is, I cannot sit here and hear reflections cast upon him without raising my voice in protest.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am not at all surprised, if he is a political friend of the minister's that he would be of the member for Qu'Appelle too.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Here is the report of the Agricultural committee, and probably this will be better evidence that my hon. friend's yarn about my being Mr. Wilson's cousin.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would rather have the evidence than the report.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Evidence that was given in the absence of the man charged and when he had no counsel there representing him! Surely my hon. friend as a lawyer has a better sporting instinct than that.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They gave a verdict in his absence.

Mr. CAMPBELL: It seems to me that this butter question is well worthy of a little more consideration. Somebody has said that this is very important to the farmers of Ontario, but it is equally important to the farmers of the prairie provinces. We are almost as much interested in butter in Saskatchewan as we are in wheat. In 1921 we produced about 7,000,000 pounds of creamery butter in Saskatchewan, and last year nearly 11,000,000 pounds. The output is increasing by leaps and bounds, and what is bothering us to-day is, where is the future market coming from? While the average wholesale price of creamery butter in 1920 was 56 cents, last year it averaged only 34 cents. The extra production and the contraction of our market is being reflected in the price, and it seems to me there is something we can do here. I think the minister could explore this question a little further. I am not quite sure that I know how it should be gone about, but I believe there should be some very rigid export grading system. If the producers in Ontario and Quebec object to the cream grading system that we have in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the diffi-