

Mr. J. H. Myers Delivers Speech

(Continued from Page 1.)

Government in the organization and in the carrying out of this work could not have been improved upon. Our officers were able to make excellent progress, which was very largely due to the excellent co-operation rendered them by your department.

The Live Stock Train

My hon. friend also mentioned the Live Stock Train. It would have been as well, from his standpoint, if he had not mentioned it at all. This is a matter that has been available for a number of years to all the provinces of the Dominion.

We started from Charlottetown and went as far West as Tignish, making stops at all the important stations en route. Now my hon. friend comes in with his criticism, and wants to know why we did not do so and so, why we did not unload the cattle at the stations and tie them to pickets in the field.

The fullest opportunity was allowed the people of seeing this stock. We had six cars in the train, and we have had a great many words of praise for the way in which the matter was brought before the public. It was a matter of regret that we were not able to carry on the same work in the eastern part of the Island owing to the fact that the Government at Ottawa has not yet standardized the rails on the eastern line, and the narrow gauge cars were not

large enough to carry the stock; but at the earliest date, when the railway is standardized, we will run our live stock train there and they will share in the advantages and opportunities accorded to the rest of the province. (Applause.)

F. Saunders "Knocks" Exhibitions

My hon. friend said he was never in favor of County Exhibitions. I knew that, instead of being a booster he is a "knocker." The fault is that Summerside was the only exhibition centre during the past season that was dropped out of the list. We had good exhibitions in other parts of the Province; Summerside was the only section that fell down. They had no exhibition, and I believe it is largely due to such men as the Leader of the Opposition, with his pessimistic remarks with reference to the subject.

"He made another wonderful statement about Seed Fairs, and asked what was the reason that we had dropped our Seed Fairs. That was a marvellous thing to say, and this fair going on, while he was talking, right in the Technical School where the farmers are holding their meetings: There are 160 exhibits of seed out in that building tonight; the largest entry that we have had for years. (Applause.)

"In this connection I want to say that these Seed Fairs really mean something to the people now. In the old days of which my hon. friend speaks any man could go to work and hand-pick a sample of seed, take it to the fair and win a prize. Today, before he can show his exhibit, he must have fifty bushels of oats and ten bushels of wheat (or sale of the same quality and variety as the sample he exhibits at the fair; so that we are able by this means to secure for the farmers the very best seed to put in the soil in the spring.

"Another matter mentioned by my hon. friend was the complaint that we had closed down the dairy plant that they had purchased at such great expense and operated for a short time. Here again he should be careful, before he speaks, to make himself conversant with the facts relevant to the case. It is true that the late Bell Government purchased a dairy plant and (or a short time made some butter and cheese there during the week when the dairymen were brought in. It is equally true that the government of New Brunswick established one at Sussex and that the government of Nova Scotia established a similar plant at Truro. And it is also true that all three of them are now closed down. The fact is that the experiment was useless. It was without any value whatever.

"Any sensible member of this House knows that to attempt to make cheese out of winter milk such as you could purchase throughout the city of Charlottetown at the present time is bound to end in failure. It is altogether dissimilar to the conditions under which cheese is made in the summer time and under pasture conditions. The same is true of butter. But in spite of the fact that this dairy plant has been closed down we find that there has been greater progress made in dairying on the Island during the past season, than was ever made before.

Dairy Instruction

"When we came into power and I took charge of the Department of Agriculture, the first thing I found was that we had no dairy superintendent whatever. A few years ago

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Mr. Morrow had been dairy superintendent, and did very good work indeed through visiting the factories of the Province. He was appointed Dominion Grader, and due to the fact that the Dominion Government and the directors of the Dairymen's Association were not able to agree on a successor, none was ever appointed. Mr. Morrow was allowed to put in part of his time, when he was not occupied in grading butter and cheese, to supervise the factories throughout the Province. The result of this neglect was soon apparent. The grade and flavor of our butter and cheese went down until the dairy industry of the island had reached a very discouraging point. We were able to make use of the Technical grant that is still available for the province, and to devote it to helping the industry. This money had been voted for purely technical education; there was nothing in the agreement that they would allow a dollar of that grant to go to agricultural purposes, but when the director came down we were able to convince him that the making of butter and cheese was an industry.

Fruit Growing Possibilities

"Coming now to the subject of fruit growing, I must say that the situation is not as satisfactory as it was years ago in this Province. We are importing immense quantities of fruit every season. With a view to encouraging this industry and seeing whether we might make ourselves self-sustaining along that line this Government asked the Federal Department to send us an expert to make a survey of the possibilities here, to see just where we stand. We have now a lengthy report from Mr. Davis, who made the survey; it is contained in the report of the Department of Agriculture which will be tabled in due course, and I will recommend the reading of it to every one in the Province. We are assured by him that there are certain sections of the Province where the cultivation of cranberries and blueberries could be made a very profitable industry indeed.

"Another new and promising agricultural activity has been carried on during the past two or three years in the growing of bent grass seed, for seeding golf courses and lawns. This seed was previously looked upon by the farmers with disdain; they were ashamed to have it growing in their fields, but strange to say, it has turned out to be a little gold mine to the people of certain sections. It is a very hard commodity to procure and much of the supply formerly came from parts of Germany. The fields there during the war were broken up and cultivated for the growing of foodstuffs. It is only in certain sections of the Maritime Provinces that the seed can be procured in the whole of North America. Near Souris we have organized what is known as a Seed Growers Association, and they have now a membership of about 150.

"The seed is very hard to clean, and last fall the local Department of Agriculture was approached by those engaged in the work for assistance in the purchase of a seed grader. They would get half the price of the machine from Ottawa provided they could furnish the remainder of the money. They wanted the local Government to pay this half. I thought that was hardly fair to the people of the Province, but I told them that we would furnish all the money until such time as they received one half from Ottawa. The remaining half the local Department would be willing to loan the growers until they were in a position to pay it back. That offer was accepted, and we now have in a building out near the railroad, a machine for the cleaning of this seed, which will also clean any other kind of timothy or clover seed as well. It cost over \$1,000 to install the machine. It is well worth any member's time to make that place a visit and see what they are doing. There will be somewhere between \$50,000 and \$60,000 worth of this seed sown in the Province this year, and the thing is only beginning.

Technical Training Continued

"My hon. friend also says that we have closed down the Technical School. So we did. We saw that the Province could not afford to keep up such an institution, with a staff of highly paid officials, for the value that we were receiving from them. But while we have closed down that costly building we have carried on the work that they were doing, and at a great deal less expense. During our first year in office we allowed that School to run as it had been doing under our predecessors. I watched the work very closely, and noted the method of making up the record of attendance, etc. For instance, I found that when a student enrolled for the course in motor mechanics, they counted him as "one." When he enrolled for the blacksmithing, he was counted "two"; when he enrolled for wood-working he was counted "three"; and when he entered upon the course in agriculture he became "four." In that way they were able to trump up a record for the School of pupils that were not there at all.

"Now during the past year we have had thirty-five young men from all over the Province in to our short courses where they have been given the best instruction possible in wood-working, motor mechanics and blacksmithing. What half the expense of that work defrayed by the Department at Ottawa. We also give them a course in agriculture; and further than that, we have established night schools in the larger centres. In the school in Charlottetown, for instance, we have had an attendance of something like sixty young men and women, and people of middle age, some of whom could not read or write, have taken up the courses and are making wonderful progress.

"Another matter that is almost entirely new since we came into office is the handicraft work that has been carried on by our Women's Institute. Something like \$1200 worth of these articles were

sold during the past season. The expense in connection with the sale of that amount of goods was only \$80; the rest was all returned to the women who did the work. It is very encouraging to see the increase in this industry throughout the Province, and tourists visiting us last year have been very appreciative of the quality of the work turned out.

Bringing Up Father

"BY GOLLY, THIS LOOKS LIKE JOHNNY DUGAN COMIN' THIS WAY."

"I THOUGHT THAT WUZ YOU COMIN' THIS WAY."

"I KNOW IT WAS."

"MARRIED YET?"

"NO, BUT I'M ENGAGED. THAT'S AS GOOD AS MARRIED."

"IT'S BETTER IF YOU ONLY KNEW IT."

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lme value, and it was remote from Poultry Association. The success any good and it never will be. My man, Mr. George Lightizer, who has business charge of the business, I have allowed this machine to lie idle, mentioned on other occasions that but I may tell them that it was put into operation by the Poultry before. We sent it up to O'Leary, put into operation by the Poultry where they crushed those hard stones to macadamize the streets with this Government. We guarantee, and as my hon. friend anticipated them against loss up to a from that district (Mr. Dennis) is certain amount, but it was run in aware, they have had a fine dry, such a splendid way that there dead all last fall.

"In order to keep abreast of the people times the Department of which I of this Province over 30,000 high-class chickens. That could not help fifty samples of sugar beet seed to fifty farmers of the Province. In the fall we sent them away to Ottawa to find the sugar content. It is all right. We can grow the beets here; they were high in sugar content and right. In every way. But from the information we have at present they are very costly to grow here on account of the scarcity of labor. The work is almost entirely hand labor and you must be in a country where you have access to plenty of cheap labor in order to compete. Personally, I would be very careful in advising our farmers to go into a competitive industry of this kind without further and fuller information. I cannot conclude without mentioning the excellent work done during the year by the Egg and

sows at Falconwood during the past year than ever before, but we in 1924; than in 1923, and during last year there was an increase saved all the expense hitherto on over 1924 of 4,000 pounds; showing that the farmers are taking advantage of this up to date way of stated that considerable progress marketing their wool, as they are had been made in the grading of doing with other commodities as wool. 4,500 pounds more wool was well. (Applause.)

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