

in order that the public and the farmers who are engaged in that profitable trade should be protected as well as the people. There had been a determination to keep up the high standard of meat supplied to the City of Toronto. The farmers who had diseased hogs had experienced the stringency of these regulations, but it appeared that when hog cholera broke out in the Government piggery it was different. His in-

formation was that the killing of the hogs in question commenced on Monday morning at 3 o'clock, continued all day and was resumed on Tuesday morning and continued until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Of the hogs killed and destroyed, ninety-seven were dressed and sent to the cold storage room at the Central Prison, and of that number between nine and thirteen were diseased, and large chunks of meat were cut out of them at the piggery before the carcasses were sent to the Central Prison, and that several had spots upon the flanks, shoulders, on the hams, and between the legs. He was prepared to prove these statements, and urged that this action by officers of the Government in placing the meat from these animals upon the market should not be tolerated, and that it showed very gross negligence on the part of its officers, for which the Government was responsible. Further, Mr. St. John asserted that the entrails of every animal killed were marked by disease, and Mr. St. John asked, why should these 97 hogs be sold to the public for human food?

The Minister's Reply.

Mr. Davis made an effective reply to the charge which Mr. St. John had made both in and out of the House. He said that up to two or three years ago there existed in connection with the public institutions in Toronto in the interest of cleanliness and economy piggens for the consumption of the refuse of these institutions. Owing to the passage of a by-law by the City of Toronto it became necessary to discontinue these piggens within the city limits. The inspector having charge of these institutions—Mr. Davis not then being at the head of the department—believed it to be in the interest of the Province to continue the piggeries. A suitable location was selected on the bank of the Humber River, the land purchased, the building erected and the whole made ready for occupation at a cost of something less than \$2,600. The erection of the building alone cost \$1,560.

Mr. St. John interrupted Mr. Davis to state that the public accounts gave the cost of labor on the building as \$1,527. He wanted to know what the material had cost.

Mr. Davis, proceeding, said that at St. Thomas Mr. St. John had placed the cost of the piggery at \$35,000. Though the member for West York had denied that he had made that statement, as reported by The Mail and Empire, many gentlemen who were present at the meeting, among them a member of the House, had understood him to place the cost at \$35,000. In reply to the statements of Mr. St. John at St. Thomas the Minister had made a speech at Paris, giving the figures of the original cost at about \$2,600. Hog cholera broke out at the piggery in July, 1896, and the Minister in charge

at the time instructed the inspector to take very careful steps. Dr. Andrew Smith, Dominion veterinary inspector, was asked to take charge of the institution, and everything that was done was at his suggestion and under his or Prof. Sweetapple's direction. A certain number of hogs, the inspector stated, were suitable for food. They were placed in the icehouse at the Central Prison and sold. After Mr. Davis had spoken at Paris Mr. St. John came to him and asked him for a statement of the cost of the piggery. The inspector under whose control the piggery was erected being absent at the time the information was delayed for a few days, but when it was prepared it was supplied to Mr. St. John at the same time that he (Mr. Davis) presented it in a speech at Markham. This statement showed that the total cost, including the land, the original construction of the building, the brick house of the caretaker, the water supply and the rebuilding of the piggery after its destruction by reason of the outbreak of disease became necessary, was \$7,020. Having stated the cost of the piggery, Mr. Davis, after explaining how two wells happened to be sunk, answered the question: Does it pay? In 1894, 1895 and 1896 there was expended on account of the purchase of hogs and the salary of the caretaker \$6,577 48. In 1894 there were no receipts, in 1895 hogs were sold to the value of \$4,596 76, in 1896 to the value of \$2,008 33, and if the hog cholera had not broken out the sale at a low estimate would have amounted to \$2,000, making a total of actual estimated receipts of \$8,605 11, or a gain of \$2,000. The piggery was again in operation, and there was no reason why it should not be a paying investment to the Province, as it would make from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year profit.

Mr. Meacham inquired what the item of \$1,527 in the public accounts really meant, if it was not for labor, as it purported to be. He contended that if there had been a blunder committed in erecting the piggery at first, the cost of re-erecting it could fairly be added to the cost of original construction.

Hon. Mr. Davis asserted that there had been no blunder made, but that the re-erection was rendered necessary owing to the destruction of the old building under the instructions of the Dominion Inspector.

Mr. Crawford condemned the slaughter and sale of diseased hogs for human food by the Government, which would not be exonerated from blame in the matter until they could produce the certificate of a competent veterinary surgeon giving them permission to place this meat upon the market for sale.

A Stout Man and Lame.

Mr. St. John said that he was prepared to prove that the veterinary inspector was not present at the killing, did not select the hogs to be killed and dressed, and further, that when he did make an inspection it was in the cold storage room at the Central Prison. He had only examined, and that carelessly, one hog.

Mr. Hardy—Was it Mr. Smith or Mr. Sweetapple?

Mr. St. John—It was not Mr. Smith.

Mr. Hardy—Was it Mr. Sweetapple?

Mr. St. John—I won't say who it was.