

"Who told you," he was asked, "that someone was to be paid for getting deposits?" A.—The General Manager.

Q.—Anyone else? A.—No one else could.

Q.—If there was no apparent change in bank deposits, why should anyone be paid? Was there any reason? A.—The General Manager thought then it was sufficient reason.

**Commissions Quite Common.**

Q.—Was it a common thing to pay commissions on deposits? A.—It had been done on several occasions.

Q.—What sort of people did you pay? A.—A travelling representative—an outside member of our staff.

Q.—Who else? A.—Several got additional interest over 3 per cent.

Q.—Who got it? A.—The firm themselves.

Taken to the case of F. H. Richardson, who was shown to have received certain commissions for obtaining City of Toronto deposits, Mr. Whittaker said that those all showed on the bank documents.

Q.—Open and aboveboard? A.—Yes.

Witness could not give the committee any information as to Mr. Mason's overdrafts with the bank, having no knowledge, he said, of Mr. Mason's personal dealings. He did not remember Hon. Peter Smith ever having a bank account with the Home Bank.

When the committee was perusing the memo pad upon which Mr. Smith's name appeared on numerous occasions, presumably as having appointments with Mr. Mason, Mr. McCrea brought out that the entries of Mr. Smith's name ended with the month of April, at about the time Mr. Mason left the bank.

**Harris Brings Books.**

Chief Accountant Douglas was called to swear to a statistical submission to the effect that the Province had lost \$87,429 on other bond transactions with George R. Harris's companies, and then Mr. Harris appeared with piles of books and documents of the Browning, Harris, Hamilton firms with which he was successively identified. The committee will have Auditor Clarkson go through them and appear at the next meeting, on Friday morning.

The statement tabled by Mr. Douglas covered a period from August, 1921, to Sept. 10, 1923, on a million and a half of inscribed stock transactions, and \$564,000 of Canadian bond transactions, and the tabulation set out that the Province had bought all the way from 3 to 17.83 points higher than actual Toronto market price, the average being 8 points higher than the market.

**POLITICS BIG DRAIN  
ON FARMER'S PURSE,  
WARNING OF MARTIN**

**Mildly Informs Agriculturists  
U. F. O. Nearly Wrecked  
Co-operative Company**

**INTERESTING STATISTICS**

Hon. John S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, told the Legislature yesterday, during Committee of Supply, that in his term of office he would do all he could to help the co-operative movement. He favored organization by the farmers, but declared they must keep politics out of such organizations.

**Value of Development.**

Agricultural development in Canada totalled \$6,031,000,000. Mr. Martin said. In Ontario the development totalled \$1,887,000,000. In Quebec it was \$1,288,000,000; in Saskatchewan \$1,513,000,000 and in Prince Edward Island, \$75,000,000.

Quoting from 1921 figures, Mr. Martin said Ontario agricultural revenue amounted to 441 millions; Quebec, 325 millions; Saskatchewan, 253 millions. Ontario had 2,838,000 head of cattle; Quebec, 1,781,000 head; Saskatchewan, 1,535,000; Alberta, 1,520,000. Ontario had 1,734,000 swine and Quebec 797,000. Ontario had 15,203,000 poultry; Quebec, 6,482,000 and Saskatchewan 9,401,000. Ontario produced more than half the dairy products of Canada, said Mr. Martin.

**Co-operative Conditions.**

Mr. Martin reviewed at some length the history of the formation of the United Farmers of Ontario and the United Farmers' Co-operative Company. The tenth anniversary of the former institution had passed recently, he said, but without any celebration of any kind. He denied that Progressive candidate majorities had not been reduced at the last election, and cited figures from Norfolk County returns to prove his contention.

Mr. Martin, after discussing the Co-operative Company, and reading figures from its various annual statements, said that its paid-up capital of \$875,000 was now represented, because of losses, by a total of \$269,000; or a \$25 share was worth now about seven dollars. There was not a doubt in the world but that political action had had a great deal to do with the result, he said.

**Small Bodies Lose Money.**

Lesser organizations scattered throughout the Province had lost money, he said, and added that W. C. Good had succeeded in losing for his farmer friends in Brant County the sum of \$30,000. He referred also to losses that had occurred in an association of farmers in Elgin County.

All these things, he proceeded, had a detrimental effect upon what he believed to be the salvation of the farmers—that was, the co-operative movement. "But in any organization," he said, "the farmers must keep away from politics, because that will be disastrous and the effects would be awful."

**Ontario Honey in Demand.**

Mr. Martin referred to the Honey Producers' Association, which, he believed, was operating along right lines. Ontario produced about ten million pounds of honey a year, and the Manager of the association had been sent to Europe and came back with a sheaf of orders, and believed that he had obtained enough to take care of the Ontario surplus.

The whole marketing of produce of the farm today depended upon quality products, Mr. Martin asserted, and maintained that education was an important factor. He showed that school fairs, a few years ago numbering 25, now numbered 504. Referring to the building of costly technical schools in urban centres, Mr. Martin said that, while he did not oppose them, nevertheless if the city boy and girl obtained these advantages, then the boy and the girl on the farm was entitled to educational facilities that suited their needs. It was for that reason that he and Dr. Merchant were going to Denmark to investigate educational matters there.

**Grading Problems.**

New Zealand was a strong competitor of Ontario now in cheese, said Mr. Martin, but Ontario had furnished New Zealand with the men who had put the industry on the map in that country. He emphasized certain grading problems, and said the farmers had a general suspicion that the material is sold for No. 1 and the shipper received the No. 1 price, but did not pass it on to the farmer.

He believed it was safe to say that half the cows in the Province of Ontario were not paying their way. He urged that education should be brought to the young people on the farm, so that they would learn not to be satisfied with having stock of any kind, "but to have good stock—cows they are glad to talk about."

Mr. Martin will proceed today, it is likely, with further explanation concerning his department.