

had reported that the deputation waited on His Excellency on Thursday last, at the city of Ottawa, with the Address, to which His Excellency was pleased to give the following answer:—

To the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg leave to thank you for the extremely kind and flattering address which you have been good enough to present to me on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario.

The cordial welcome with which, as the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty I was received by all classes in every city, town, and hamlet of Ontario, afforded me the most striking proofs of the loyalty and devotion of the people to the Crown and person of the Queen.

In Toronto, the capital of the Province, in Hamilton, in London, as well as in the surrounding agricultural districts, I saw equally unmistakable evidence of the industry, energy, and patriotism with which the population at large are developing the natural resources of the Province, while the universal presence of excellent schools and colleges in every direction, exhibited their enlightened appreciation of the benefits to be derived from the sound training and proper education of the rising generation.

The ability, dignity, and moderation which seem to guide your Legislative Council, show in a not less satisfactory manner how happily political talent is associated with mercantile enterprise and agricultural industry in your Province.

The combination of such qualities cannot fail to render the people of Ontario one of the most prosperous communities on this continent, and I need not assure you that I shall always take the deepest personal interest in their welfare.

Government House, Ottawa, March 6, 1873.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

HON. MR. McKELLAR moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the following resolution:—That careful examination has been made during the past year with respect to the lands acquired by the Province in the township of Etobicoke for the purposes of an agricultural farm and college, and that such examinations were made as well by practical, as scientific persons, competent to judge of the adaptability and fitness of these lands for the purposes intended, and that such persons have in their reports pronounced against the adaptability or fitness of such lands, and have recommended that the said Agricultural Farm and College be not established on said lands. That instead of the said lands, the farm of Mr. F. W. Stone, near the town of Guelph, containing five hundred and fifty acres of land, can be acquired, and the said farm is altogether suitable for the hereinbefore mentioned purpose. That it is expedient to purchase the said farm for an amount not to exceed the sum of seventy thousand dollars. In making this motion, the speaker said that it would be proper for him to explain to the House the reasons which moved the Government to bring the subject under the consideration of Parliament, and in doing so he would refer to some reports that had been put in motion that he himself, and he apprehended the Government also as a whole, were actuated in removing the site of the Agricultural College from the farm at Mimico because the selection was made by the late Government. He disclaimed any such motive entirely, and he would go further, and say that he believed Mr. Carling, the late Commissioner, was actuated by the best motives in making the selection he did. In making that selection Mr. Carling had three objects in view. His first desire was to get the site of the College as near Toronto as possible, in order that the Professors of the University might be utilised in teaching those in attendance at the institution, and it was therefore necessary to keep the site within ten miles of this city. It was also that gentleman's desire to have the site near a railway station, and also to secure a site containing six hundred acres. Probably the one selected was the only one within ten miles of Toronto containing six hundred acres and situate at a railway station. When the present Government came into office, an official communication, reporting against the Mimico farm, was sent to them by the Rev. Mr. Clarke, who had been appointed by Mr. Carling to visit the United States and report upon the working of agricultural colleges in that country; and he (the speaker) thought the very fact of Mr. Clarke writing on such a subject as that, entitled it to very great consideration. He looked about for competent judges to report upon the site at Mimico intended for the advancement of the agricultural

interests of the country, and he considered that the highest and best authority for that purpose was the Agricultural Association—a board of gentlemen selected from different parts of the Province and representing all shades of political opinion. They visited the Mimico farm and reported against its fitness for the purpose intended, in the month of February a year ago. In order to proceed in the most careful manner, he requested these gentlemen when they met in the summer to make a second visit to Mimico, because at that time the crops would be up and they could see better than in winter the capabilities of the soil. They made a second visit accordingly, and they confirmed the report which they made in the winter. Still the Government were not satisfied with that, and proceeded to obtain the reports of eminent practical and scientific men. Professor Mills, of Michigan College, was recommended to the Government for that service. The college which he presided over was the most successful institution of the kind in the United States. He therefore thought he could not apply to any more capable man than Professor Mills, who was accordingly appointed. He (the speaker) might state that very strong objections had been raised through the columns of the press to Mr. Mills, not because he was not qualified to discharge his duties, but because he was a Yankee Professor. He had no sympathy with such views as these. He believed that when a man qualified to take a position in anything was found he should be appointed; and honourable gentlemen would remember that this was not the only Government which had selected a gentleman from another country to do service, for the Government at Ottawa appointed a professional gentleman from the States to inspect the canal in the locality in which the honourable Speaker of this House resided. He made this statement to show that the Government would take the best men that could be found, whether they were on this side of the water or not. Professor Mills reported against the Mimico farm also. He made a chemical analysis of the soil and found that it was unsuitable for the purpose required. The Government thought it was necessary to make a still further examination, and made a selection of five gentlemen, four of whom were practical eminent agriculturists in the Province; two of them being from the East, and two from the West, and with them were associated Professor Croft; but that gentleman declined to act because he had, as he explained, no knowledge of the capabilities of soil unless it was brought to him for analysis. The gentlemen thus appointed were Messrs. Ball, Dunlop, Miller, and Dryden, and they made an examination of the farm. The Government selected two of them, political opponents of their own, for they were careful that it might not be charged against them that the report was drawn up according to their own instructions. However, these gentlemen unanimously reported against the site at Mimico. Every one of them were against it as a site for an agricultural institution. The country would, he knew, bear the Government out in saying that they had done their best to get the most impartial opinion that could be had in regard to the matter. They could have no object other than to have the institution in the very best possible place. It was not a matter of locality, and he was not asking the site for his own county. Any gentleman who wished well of his country would agree with him that it should be located in the most suitable place. The subject was of great importance to the country, for if the results of the operations at the College should fall below the average it would be a very serious injury to the country. Reports would be sent abroad—to Great Britain, the United States, and every civilized nation—and the results would be taken as the best that could be done in this Province. It became the House and the Government to set their judgment at work and locate the farm where it would be of the greatest benefit. (Hear, hear.) It had been said that the Government were actuated by political motives in this matter, but he repudiated such an idea. If there was any county in the Province more entitled to that farm than any other it was the County of York, represented by gentlemen in the House who were supporters of the Government. If they were governed by political considerations there were none more entitled to them than the two gentlemen who sat opposite to him. Perhaps there was no county in the Province where better sites could be had than in that county, for take it as a whole there was no better land than was there to be found, or more intelligent people. But where was the county in which would not be found inferior sites? and it so happened that the site at Mimico was on an inferior spot. There had been plenty of farms offered to the Govern-