

ried away by the consideration of the convenience of the farm to Toronto. Guelph, however, was a railway centre, and was accessible from every part of the country by good roads. He went on to explain that there could be no assistance extended to the College if placed at Mimico by the Professors at the University in Toronto. Entirely irrespective of the duty imposed upon him as a member of the Government, he could not help contending that the site at Guelph was by all means preferable to that at Mimico.

Mr. BOULTER said the only trouble that seemed to affect the Government was the cost of changing the site from Mimico to Guelph. The best way of getting over that difficulty would be to leave the farm where it was. He was one of those who visited the farm at Mimico last year, and his opinion was that its varied soils offered the best possible site for an experimental farm. He moved that at the present time it is not desirable that the Provincial Treasury be burdened with the maintenance of an agricultural farm.

Mr. CAMERON moved an amendment to the amendment. It appeared to him very strange that the persons who had lately examined the farm at Mimico had not paid some attention to the report made by the practical farmers in the neighbourhood. The opinion held by the Minister of Agriculture, that because these farmers came from and lived in the neighbourhood that their opinion was biased thereby, was indeed very flattering to the yeomanry of the country. The true reason for the change was that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture had always had a favourable eye on the site at Guelph, even before the late Provincial Secretary left the Government. He could not see why the Government should have passed over the Professors and agriculturists that we have in this country, and have gone to the United States to find a person to examine the soil on the Mimico farm. He then went on to read the letter addressed to Prof. Mills of Michigan, from which he argued that some former correspondence had been had with that gentleman either by the Commissioner or Dr. Clarke, the latter of whom was anxious to have the site at Guelph, where he resided. The practical farmers who had examined the Mimico farm showed that the site and locality was in every way suitable and challenged inspection. He thought the site at Whitby would be better than that at Guelph. The Government was for the first time showing an apparent attempt to save some of the public money at the expense of the farmers of the country. They might have exercised some of that economy more beneficially in the matter of the Inebriate Asylum. He believed the object of an agricultural farm was to teach farmers how poor land might be made productive, and how good land might be brought to bear fruit beyond what they had known of before. The Mimico farm had the advantage of possessing all the various kinds of soil which were necessary. He believed that it had been prevalent courtesy that a new Government should not undo what had been done by a previous Government, unless upon strong and valid reasons. He then went on to criticize minutely the details of the accounts for inspections, and concluded by moving, as an amendment to the amendment:—

That all the words in the proposed amendment after the word "House" be struck out, and the following words substituted therefor: "Notwithstanding the reports made respecting the lands acquired by the Province for an Agricultural Farm and College in the township of Etobicoke, in view of the very favourable statement and representations of the capabilities of said lands by Messrs. Noble, E. Stock, and W. Burgess, practical farmers living in the neighbourhood of said lands, and thoroughly acquainted therewith, as with their productive character in the past, and in view of the great loss and expense that will be entailed upon the country, estimated at not less than \$30,000, by a change of site, this House would not be justified in sanctioning any change in the location for such college and farm from the site selected by the Administration of the late Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald."

Hon. PETER GOW said that when the matter of removal had first been introduced he had contended that no removal should take place without the best of reasons; but the evidence against keeping the Agricultural Farm at Mimico was so strong that no Government dared in its face go on with the building of the farm-houses there. The action taken by the Board of Agriculture in this matter was so decisive that it was impossible for the Government to say the site was a favourable one. The testimony offered to the Government in this matter was

so strong that it felt bound to secure evidence from some person who was entirely disinterested in the matter, and therefore Professor Mills had been appointed, because he was presumed to be entirely unprejudiced in the matter, and because he was celebrated on the other side of the line for his knowledge of agricultural science. After an examination of the ground that skilled gentleman had entirely corroborated the opinions expressed by the Board of Agriculture. Then, to show that the Government was not hasty, a further examination was thought desirable, and as it was thought that there should be no political feeling in the matter, the body of men in no wise interested in the matter should be selected to report upon the site. This was done, and the report of these gentlemen still further precluded the possibility of the Government's going on with the works at Mimico. In reference to the Stone farm, he said that it contained all sorts of soil and was a most eligible site. He maintained most emphatically that his retirement from the Government had no connection with the selection of the Guelph farm nor *vice versa*. He had retired before the commission referred to was asked to visit Guelph, and that visit had not been made at his request. Hon. gentleman who spoke so slightly of the Guelph farm knew nothing of stock raising, nor of the nature of the farming country in that neighbourhood. It was a fact well known to all those who took any interest in those matters that Guelph and Wellington were away in the foreground of any other part of Canada in respect to the excellence of their farm produce. Guelph had expended a very large sum in the establishment of show buildings, and yearly held an agricultural show which was hardly second to the Provincial exhibition. There was, he maintained, no part of the country that was in a position to claim equality with Guelph in the matter of agricultural advancement, and the authorities of the Agricultural College, if it was established there, would have much to do to keep up to the ordinary farmers of the neighbourhood. He thought that the excellence of the Stone farm was of itself a very strong case in favour of the action taken by the Government. In addition to the great advantage of being located near a railway centre, that farm had on it a splendid new building which had never been occupied, and which had been in process of erection for the last seven years, the marble mantel pieces now just being put in. The out-buildings had stone foundations, and were built of stone one story above the ground; the fences were of the very best material and pattern; a great portion of the farm was in a high state of cultivation and underdrained; there was on it a very large orchard of imported fruit trees, and altogether the farm was one upon which the College authorities could go to work at once and make it self-sustaining, whereas the Mimico farm would need the incurring of a great deal of preliminary expense. In the matter of economy the Guelph purchase was by long odds the preferable one. At Mimico it would have been necessary to spend \$25,000 for out-houses, while on the Stone farm far better ones than could be had for that money were already standing. He wished to be understood as disclaiming most emphatically that his retirement and the selection of the present site had any connection whatever. His retirement had been an entirely personal matter.

Mr. GIBBONS said that from his personal inspection of the Mimico farm he thought that the crops looked about as bad as they could look in any part of Canada. He could have carried an acre's crop of grass away on his back. Shaly sandstone and sand prevailed. There was no water, and the whole place was as dry as dust. The man must be next thing to a maniac or a fool to buy such a farm.

Dr. CLARKE said that he had never reported in favour of the Mimico farm, and Prof. Buckland explained that his orders were to find a farm within thirty miles from Toronto, and he thought that the Mimico farm was the best he could select. He believed the Guelph farm was all that was represented, and spoke of the great advantage of having a stream running through the farm.

Mr. BOULTBEE thought that, for the credit of the House, it would have been well if this discussion had been conducted with closed doors, because he observed some farmers in the gallery, and he thought that from what they had heard, they would not have a very exalted idea of the agricultural knowledge of the gentlemen who had taken part in the debate. He observed that one of the most scientific men in the country, Professor Buckland, had reported in favour of the Mimico site, and that they must believe that the men who had lived on the farm,