

and had given evidence with respect to it, were all liars, or they must take it that the land was suitable for the purpose for which it had been chosen. He thought it a principle which should be recognized by the House, that when any Government had selected a site for any public institution like this, unless there was some overwhelming reason shown against its being retained, the action of the late Government should be sustained. He contended that instead of going about the country looking for another site, the Government should have saved expense by hearing evidence with respect to the present one. The report showed that on the Mimico land there were different sorts of soil, and that there was a great deal of under-draining required. He held that these facts were in favour of the site, because it was of importance that young men who were being taught agriculture should be shown how to reclaim exhausted soil, to under-drain, &c. The Guelph farm was so well cultivated that there was little for young agriculturists to learn on it, and among the evils that would result from the present site being abandoned, the property in the vicinity would be depreciated.

Mr. PATTERSON said that he had hitherto given the Government a faithful support, but he could not endorse their action with regard to the question under discussion. The Commissioner of Agriculture had stated that the motives that had actuated the late Government were three in number. The first was that the agricultural farm should be near the University, and the second that it should be near a railway station. He believed that these were considerations that should have influence in determining the House on the choice of a site for the farm. There were twelve trains passing the Mimico farm every day, and he understood that Mr. Muir, the manager of the Great Western, had promised that if that site was chosen for the agricultural farm he would cause every one of them to stop in passing, and would carry passengers between the city and the farm at one fare. He took exception to the Commissioner of Agriculture speaking as he had done of the statements of men living in the vicinity of the Mimico farm with reference to its character, and said that he personally knew many of them to be men of integrity, veracity, and intelligence. The people of that section of the country felt aggrieved at the manner in which they had been treated; they felt that their property had been depreciated by the rash statements that had been made with respect to this farm. The locality was considered by the people of this city a very desirable one for picnics; nine-tenths of the picnics were held there, which it was not likely they would be if the locality were a bad or an unpleasant one. He did not charge the Government with being influenced by political motives in selecting the site at Guelph, but his impression on that point, and that of the country at large, were not the same, and he would advise the Government in dealing with so important a matter, in future to shun the very appearance of evil. He thought that the Government, to avoid placing him and others of their usual supporters in the delicate position he occupied with respect to this matter, should have submitted it to the House as an open question. He believed that the Mimico site would compare favourably with any other in the Province.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. PATTERSON resumed, and quoted from the reports of the farmers in the neighbourhood asserting the excellence of the soil at Mimico and its great capabilities for the production of the ordinary crops grown in Canada. He said that a portion of the land sent for analysis had, according to the statement made by a gentleman present at the meeting held on the subject, been taken not from the surface of the soil but from the mouth of a sandpit which had been dug by a former tenant. In regard to the water supply, he asserted that a plentiful supply of that necessary could be had by sinking to not more than fourteen feet. On the farms near the site of the agricultural farm at Mimico a plentiful supply was procured by the ordinary farm-yard wells. The report of the committee of the Markham Farmers' Club had testified that five-sixths of the land on the Mimico Model Farm was of average to superior land, and said that for the purpose of a model farm the selection was a good one. He thought that if the statement of Dr. Clarke of the 12th of Jan. was in reply to a letter from the Provincial Secretary, as might be inferred from it, that letter ought to be brought down. If it was not based upon such a letter, the gentleman showed in his interest for Guelph more anxiety than was proper on the subject.

It was apparent to every one that that gentleman was interested by mercenary motives, and was looking forward to a comfortable berth in connection with the College, when located at Guelph. He (Mr. P.) could not see any advantages that the Guelph farm possessed over that at Mimico, unless it was for a place wherein a worn-out clergyman could spend his winter. It was most astonishing to him that the Board of Agriculture could find in a farm of 600 acres so close to Toronto, not one redeeming feature. Professor Kedgie in his report claimed as an objection to the Mimico farm that there was too much iron upon it. He (Mr. P.) must have been working under some delusion for some years past, or else his currant bushes and fruit trees had been, for in his garden a spadeful of iron filings at the roots of those trees and bushes had yielded him a most bountiful harvest of nice fruit, while his neighbours were not so fortunate. He did not base his claim that the present site should be retained on the ground that he had been loyal to the Reform party, but because the facts of the case warranted the retention of the present site.

Mr. GIFFORD said he had listened in vain to hear from the Commissioner of Agriculture a reason for the establishing of the College and farm. It appeared to him that the object was not to make a show farm, but to teach the young agriculturists of the country the principles of their art. If it was intended to make a place which could be shown to strangers and visitors as a specimen of what we could raise in the way of crops the proposed change might be advisable; but if it was intended to have a place where the young farmers could be taught how to manage land, then the proper place to be selected was a site where the land was middling poor, or exhausted, where draining was difficult, and where water was scarce. Looking at the matter in this light he did not intend to go into the matter of expense, which in so important a matter was of small importance. He believed that in this country the temperature was changing, and great scarcity of water was becoming everywhere apparent. He thought that young farmers ought to be taught to overcome that difficulty, and to fight nature in this respect. At present much of the time of farmers was taken up in the summer in driving stock to and from streams of water.

Mr. FAREWELL was of the conviction that nothing could be done better to advance the interest of the country than the establishment of an agricultural farm and college. If anything could be done to give the agricultural classes a better social and educational standing in the country than they now possessed, it should be done. He believed that the gentleman who first proposed the establishment of an agricultural college had taken a step in the right direction. He went on to argue that the Commissioner of Agriculture, in view of the protests that were coming in to him thick and fast against the Mimico site, and in view of the fact that little or no work had been done on that farm, had done perfectly right in asking the opinion of those best qualified to speak with authority and knowledge on the subject. The Commissioner had done exactly what a prudent painstaking man actuated by a desire to serve his country must have done under the circumstances. He (Mr. F.) had always maintained that no change should ever be made by a Government in the sites selected by a former Government; but in the present case the combined evidence of so many competent and unbiassed could not have been overlooked or disregarded. After having instituted enquiry and having received such condemnatory reports, the Government would have been culpable if it had not ordered a change of site. He intended to move an amendment to the effect that Whitby should be selected as the site of the farm.

Mr. RYKERT said he was not astonished at the warmth of the last speaker in his defence of the Commissioner of Agriculture, he having in his eye the selection of Whitby as the site of the college and farm. The hon. gentleman opposite had, when the late Government proposed the establishment of an agricultural college, opposed the scheme on the ground that it was of doubtful success, and the hon. Minister of Agriculture had opposed it during his election campaign. Dr. Clarke had approved of the site at Mimico in the first place, but now actuated by personal motives, and looking forward to a professorship at Guelph, he recommended and urged strongly the removal of the site to that place. The Agricultural Colleges in the United States had not been over successful. He was not afraid of asserting publicly that the Board of Agriculture was a political machine, and that it was actuated in the report it made by a feeling of revenge against the Hon. Mr. Carling, because he had dared to suggest to that Board