

the exercise of some economy in their operations. The report referred to had been drawn up by a caucus at the Queen's Hotel, before the Board met. He said that Mr. Clarke's report which represented the soil at Mimico as being "a stiff hungry clay," differed materially from the other reports upon the subject, which represented the soil as sandy. He contended that the action of the Government in this matter was undignified, because, in selecting a site by which they declared themselves prepared to stand or fall, they placed some hon. gentlemen opposite in the position of having to importune members on both sides to aid and support them in forwarding their views. He said that the country would suffer a great financial loss by the change of site, and would be doing a serious injustice to the farmers in the neighbourhood, the price of whose lands would be depreciated to an alarming extent. He hoped hon. gentlemen would act in this matter according to their independent judgment; although he was sorry to say that some hon. gentlemen who had formerly expressed themselves in favour of the Mimico site had, within the last twenty-four hours, recanted their opinions.

Attorney-General MOWAT said the Government did not charge the late Government with any dishonest or improper motive in selecting Mimico as the site of the agricultural farm; but that Government had made a very great mistake indeed in this matter; and the mass of evidence now before this Government, which the old one had not had the advantage of, made it compulsory that a change should take place. He was satisfied that the country would not lose its money if one hundred young men in each year attended this College, and went out on to their own farms acquainted with all the best plans of working lands. All his own personal inclinations and interests were in favour of Toronto, so were those of the hon. Treasurer. Political and personal reasons were very strong, indeed, for the retention of the site as it was. In leaving the site the Government would have had no responsibility. Everything except their own sense of duty pointed towards keeping the site where it stood, but the mass of evidence against that policy was so great that he and his colleagues felt bound, in the interests of the country, to advise a change. The very gentleman who had been selected on account of his ability to report for the late Government in this matter had been the first to bring this matter before them.

Mr. CAMERON said that Mr. Clarke had approved of the Mimico site.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that the hon. gentleman must have been under a great mistake respecting that gentleman's view. He had reported against that site. He was a gentleman, not only a good agriculturist but a Minister of the Gospel, who was incapable of falsifying his statements or contradicting his former statements. The Attorney-General then went on to read extracts from Mr. Clarke's report in favour of Guelph. Surely hon. gentlemen could not expect that, in the face of all this evidence afforded to them against the Mimico farm, the Government could allow the work there to go on? The Government had not remained satisfied with Dr. Clarke's report—able as all men knew he was to speak on the subject—but had obtained from others interested in the advancement of agriculture their views on the matter, and all had tended to show that it would have been a most improper thing for the Government, in the face of all these warnings, to go on with this large expenditure of the public money. The charge that the Government had been influenced by political feeling in this matter was perfectly absurd, when the strong and disinterested evidence against the Mimico and in favour of the Guelph farm was taken into consideration. He contended that the whole scheme would be laughed at if a site was chosen where, with all the scientific appliances practicable, the results would not equal those of average farms in the Province. It would be impossible to secure the attendance of young farmers on a model farm whose products were not equal to those of the farms worked by their fathers and brothers. They would laugh, and think they knew more than their teachers. It was well known that two of the four gentlemen chosen to inspect the sites were Conservatives, and yet they united with the other two in reporting against the adaptability of Mimico site without an extravagant outlay. Hon. gentlemen opposite dared not say that that was not an honest opinion given by competent men. Those to whom he had personally spoken on the subject laughed at the idea of the Mimico farm being selected as the model farm of the Province.

The report of Mr. Buckland was merely a local one which spoke of the land in the immediate neighbourhood of Toronto. As to the cost of making the change, he said it had been shown that the same results could be derived for half the expenditure. The advantages of having the Stone farm in preference to the one at Mimico were so great that there was but one course open to the Government if they wished to do their full duty in the matter, even though it set them for the moment in antagonism with some of their own friends.

Mr. LAUDER spoke of the variance in the opinions of the gentlemen who reported upon the soil of the farm at Mimico, and of the fun which Prof. Kedgie, of Michigan, was in the habit of poking at this Province for sending him up parcels of earth for analysis. He accused the Government of an attempt to introduce the American system of changing the selection made by former Governments for the purpose of throwing a slur and a stigma upon their predecessors. Some of the members of the Government were in their departmental action endeavouring to foster political spirit and partizanship. He thought the people of West York, if they had any spirit left, would resent the action taken by the Government in this matter. The speaker went on to say that the cost of transferring the site would be very great, and there would be nothing beneficial gained by it. By the removal of the College the Government were unsettling the people of York, Peel, and Halton. He was satisfied that the second judgment of this House was against the removal of the College from Mimico.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR replied to a statement made by the previous speaker that he had abused the farmers of Etobicoke, or made use of improper language towards them. That was entirely incorrect; but he did say that the report drawn up by Messrs. Noble, Stock, and Burgess abounded in statements which were not true. He did not know any of these gentlemen, but Mr. Burgess had written a letter about him (the Commissioner) in the *Mail* in which facts had been stated which were altogether at variance with the truth. The letter showed the *animus* of the writer, and was not worth answering; but another letter in reply to the former showed the worthlessness of the statements in it. He (the Commissioner) had no object in depreciating the farm at Mimico, but his aim was to place the Agricultural College where it would be a credit to the country.

Mr. CRAIG (Glengarry) regretted that on this occasion he should have to place himself in opposition to the views of the Board of Agriculture. He was only too glad to support the Government when he could, and would be glad if he could do so now without doing violence to his own honest convictions. He had some practical experience as a farmer and knew good land from bad. He saw a bad report of the site at Mimico published by the Board of Agriculture, and went to the late Mr. Sandfield Macdonald and asked him what he meant by locating the College at that place. Mr. Macdonald told him to go and see for himself, and he did so. He went there, and had not gone over six acres of the land till, according to his judgment, the report of the Board of Agriculture was incorrect, and his opinion was confirmed by the report given by Messrs. Stock, Noble, and Burgess. A meeting had been held in Mimico the other day at which this report had been confirmed. It struck him that the evidence taken by the Government was all on one side, and not sufficient care had been taken to get evidence on the other side favourable to the present site. Toronto was the most central and convenient place for the College, and he did not think it should be removed from this locality. As a farmer he gave it as his opinion that the soil, under proper management, would yield as large a return of crops as any other in the Province. He believed that we wanted an Agricultural College, for this was a farming country, and the interests of agriculture should be carefully protected. If there was a large sum to be spent for an Inebriate Asylum, surely something could be afforded for a College for farmers. He knew nothing about the Stone farm beyond what he had heard concerning it, but if Mr. Stone was the farmer that had been represented he was he did not think his farm could be much improved. Young men could not be taught to farm in a place that was already in a high state of cultivation. He felt convinced that the Government were making a great mistake in removing the site from Mimico; and it was with great reluctance that he would have to oppose them.