

ment of a model dairy, as it would be productive of great benefit.

Mr. CREIGHTON considered farming among the most honourable occupations a man could follow, and he would be glad to see a means of increasing the scientific knowledge of its principles. He was afraid, however, that the Agricultural College was a failure, as there was no means of disseminating the knowledge there attained throughout the country. Seventy-six pupils had graduated, if he might use the term, since the opening of the college, and of these 36 had abandoned farming life. Each of the 76 pupils had cost the country \$1,000, taking as a basis of calculation the interest on capital amount. Now the farming community were, as a whole, of opinion that they reaped no benefit from this expenditure, and they gained no accession of scientific knowledge. Of the forty pupils now at the college only fifteen were farmers' sons. The remaining twenty-one pupils were sons of merchants, and if the proteges of city members were thus given the preference over the sons of farmers the country would believe the whole institution was a humbug. He considered that admission should be confined strictly to the sons of farmers.

Mr. HARDY considered that the report given by the member for Peterboro was incorrect.

Mr. BOULTER was convinced that the institution had been mismanaged. There were forty students there, of whom the greater number were not farmers' sons and never intended to be farmers. The institution was an experiment, and he considered it would be unwise to incur further expense for additional buildings. He moved, in amendment, that as the Agricultural College is a purely experimental undertaking, and it is proposed to expend \$25,000 on additional buildings, without satisfactory evidence being presented to the House that the said college is likely to prove successful, the House do not concur in the appropriation of \$16,000, but reduce the amount to \$10,000.

Mr. CAMERON said that as the late Government favoured the experiment of establishing this college he did not wish to do anything that would prevent the Government from making it a success. He reminded the Government that one of their reasons for changing the site of the Institution to Guelph was that there was better accommodation in the shape of buildings, and that the soil was superior. The Government now found the buildings inadequate for the purpose, and were going to ask for additional appropriations for new buildings. The expenditure was increasing, the appropriations had been exceeded, and yet the institution was not doing the work for which it was intended. He did not object to the Government taking money to make the institution efficient, though it had been the means of showing that the Government had put their hands in the public chest and taken out money without even an Order in Council. He referred to the memorable \$1,500 cheque given to Prof. McCandless by the Attorney-General. He referred to the Central Prison, and said that its cost had increased enormously upon the first estimate. He had heard that drains were constructed there in the most defective way and without the authority of the engineer. The Model Farm was costing far more than the Government had at first stated, and it was not accomplishing a tittle of its intended objects.

Mr. WOOD said that if, as the members of the Opposition tried to insinuate, the Agricultural College was a political institution, the sooner it was done away with the better. (Hear, hear.) Still with their usual consistency they first tried to show that it was a political affair, and then advised that it should receive a fair trial. There was no doubt that the institution was so far an experimental one. At present the accommodation was not near sufficient for all the applications. They had now on hand some 70 or 80 applications, of which they had been obliged to refuse some thirty or forty. The Government, knowing that the same staff could teach one hundred pupils as easily as forty—knowing that the country demanded additional accommodation—had come down to the House asking for a small sum for that purpose. As a matter of economy, the only alternative before the Government was either to increase the accommodation or close the College up altogether. The cost of each pupil had been altogether overrated by hon. members opposite: for last year it had been only

about \$700, and it would have been far less if the accommodation was greater. The charge that the stock had cost too large an amount was untrue, as any practical farmer would admit, if he inspected the stock and prices paid. It was unfortunate that comparatively a small proportion of farmers' sons attended the institution, but still it was to be remembered that the school was open to all who intended following agricultural pursuits, whether they were the sons of farmers, mechanics, or professional men. They found that pupils came from nearly all parts of the Province, and if as some hon. gentleman stated, there were none from these particular counties, it was all the greater pity that the farmers in those counties did not give their sons the advantages of a training at the institution. The statements made by the President of the College on the occasion of the recent visit to the institution had been referred to, and especially his remarks about the difficulty of dealing with some of the applications. What Mr. Johnston had stated was that as the members from the cities and towns were pretty generally favourable to the institution, while those from the country were opposed to it, he found great difficulty in refusing applications from the former class, and accepting those from the latter. He (Mr. Wood) did not choose to make any reply to the remarks of the member for East Toronto, simply because he could not see the wisdom of renewing over and over again debates which had taken place long ago in this House, or of answering charges which had been repeatedly replied to. The question now before the House and the country was whether the institution was to receive a fair trial by increasing the accommodation and correspondingly reducing the expense of each pupil. The member for Hastings had complained that the institution was dwarfed, and yet he proposed to do that which would dwarf it still more. If after a fair trial it was found that the institution could not be made successful, if they found it had to be given up, the building would not be lost, but could be utilised for some public purpose.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) said that from what had occurred at Guelph he thought that this was an experiment of very doubtful issue. If it is to cost so much to educate these young farmers the sooner the scheme be abandoned the better. He was not in favour of erecting permanent structures, which in this event might realize much less than the cost. From his former position and intercourse with farmers he did not anticipate that the moral effect of the farm conducted upon such principles would be appreciable. It would have the opposite effect to that anticipated, on account of the great expense incurred in raising the crops. He thought that the country would sometime soon tell hon. gentlemen that the money might very much better be spent in encouraging the farming of the country through the agricultural societies. He contended that gentlemen farming was not suited for this country, where labour was at the highest and the product at the lowest, combined with a most peculiar climate. Men of scientific attainments as well as practical are not required in this country and will branch off into other matters. He thought it strange that they had to import three collie-dogs from Scotland at a cost of \$81. Among the subjects that Mr. Johnston wished to teach the students he noticed the distinguishing of weeds from grass, and soil by handling, management of dogs, when to buy and sell, and appreciate the value of common or little things. What showed to him that the aim of the institution was misappreciated were that among the studies were botany, structural botany, agricultural chemistry, zoology, sea-urchins, leech, lobster, spider, &c., &c., and the placing of each animal in in class. (Great laughter.) He thought such a curriculum was all very well for gentlemen of scientific predilections, but not what should be taught in such an institution. As farmers do not patronize this institution, he could not see the propriety of spending this money at present. He wished to see it continue in such a scale as would not strike the public as being extravagant, with a better curriculum, and one that would not raise the farmers in opposition and demand its being closed. He recommended the Government to retrace its steps and await the development of the scheme as it is.

Mr. GRAHAM was surprised at the action of the Opposition in this matter, and thought