

He might remind the House that the County Councils for 35 years had had power to make nominations to the High Schools and the University. With regard to the latter they never availed themselves of the privilege, and but rarely in regard to the former. He might ask hon. members opposite if they would contend that the nominations to the Technological College should be given to Trades' Unions and City and Town Councils, because the argument applied in reference to the County Councils as representatives of agriculture would apply here. It would be a mere farce to entrust the nominations to the Agricultural College to the County Councils, judging by what they had done in reference to the High Schools and the University.

Mr. CURRIE opposed both amendments. He had no doubt the recommendation of a County Council would have its due weight with the Principal of the College.

Mr. FRASER pointed out that to pass either of the amendments at this stage would be equivalent to censuring the Government. The amendment to the amendment moreover had what was not a fact, viz:—That the policy heretofore pursued had excluded the son of farmers. It also said that preference should be given to farmers' sons, and he thought the House would not affirm this, because the son of a mechanic, if he elected to take to farming, had an equal right to admission with the son of a farmer. For these reasons both resolutions should be voted down.

Mr. SCOTT said that hon. gentlemen by refusing to accept any suggestion from the Opposition had forced him to adopt the mode he had adopted of bringing this matter before the House. He did not charge that there was political favouritism in the selection of pupils for the institution, but it certainly was a fair inference from the remarks of the Principal that there was a discrimination in favour of pupils recommended by members supporting the institution. It was for the purpose of removing these difficulties that he had proposed the amendment. It was of the greatest moment that those who were educated at the institution at so large an expense to the Province should continue in the vocation of farming.

Mr. WOOD contended that the effect of the Principal's remarks had been simply that he had experienced a difficulty in selecting pupils whose applications were endorsed by city members and refusing those which were endorsed by rural members. He (Mr. Wood) did not believe that a dozen members of the eighty-eight composing the House could say that their applications in favour of pupils had been refused, nor did he believe that a single rural member would honestly say that he believed his application had been refused because he represented a rural constituency. He regretted very much that this debate had taken place. It was most unfortunate that even a suspicion of the fairness of the Principal should go abroad to the country. The reflection which had been made upon that gentleman have been as severe as it had been undeserved. (Hear, hear) Heretofore he (Mr. Wood) had never made any inquiry with regard to favouritism, believing that no such thing had existed; but he should take it upon himself to see that hereafter there was no such favouritism, though he firmly believed that he should find nothing of the kind in the institution.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that if the institution proved a failure the country would justly throw a very large share of the blame upon hon. gentlemen opposite who were trying their utmost to make it a political affair. He could not understand why this particular educational institution of the Province should be so persistently treated by the Opposition from a mere party stand-point.

Mr. MERRICK said that the college had been tried and found to be a failure.

Mr. MOWAT said that three years was not a long enough period in which to decide whether the institution was a failure. He pointed out that though the Government expected to enlarge the accommodation sufficiently next year to allow of all the applications being received, both the amendments were valueless unless on the supposition that the accommodation would be limited.

The House then divided on the amendment to the amendment, which was lost; Yeas 29; Nays, 44.

YEAS.—Messrs. Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Cameron, Code Gentes, Craighton, Deacon, Fleisher, Grant, Harkin Kean, Lauder, MacDougall (Middlesex) MacDougall (Simcoe) McGowan Merrick, Monk, O'Sullivan, Patterson (Essex), Preston, Richardson, Scott, Tooley, Wigle—29.

NAYS.—Messrs. Ballantyne Baxter, Bethune, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Dawson, Deroche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fraser, Gibson, Grant, Hardy, Hay, Hodgins, Lane, Lyon, McCraney, McMahon, Massie, Meredith, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Paxton, Rebl, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Springer, Straker, Watterworth, Widdifield, Williams, Wilson Wood—44.

Mr. HODGINS then moved, in amendment to the amendment, "That all the words after 'that' in the proposed amendment be struck out, and the following substituted:—'The following resolution:—'And while the House is of opinion that due weight and consideration should be given to the recommendations of the County Councils for the admission of pupils to the Agricultural College, it deems it inexpedient to adopt any rule for this purpose.'"

The House divided on the amendment to the amendment, which was carried. Yeas, 43; Nays, 27.

YEAS.—Messrs. Ballantyne Baxter, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington) Cole, Crooks, Currie, Dawson, Deroche, Ferris Finlayson, Fraser, Gibson, Grant, Hardy, Hay, Hodgins, Lane, Lyon, McCraney, McMahon, Massie, Meredith, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Paxton, Richardson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Straker, Watterworth, Widdifield, Williams, Wilson, Wood—43.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Cameron, Code Gentes, Craighton, Deacon, Fleisher, Grant, Harkin Kean, Lauder, MacDougall (Middlesex) MacDougall (Simcoe) McGowan Merrick, Monk, O'Sullivan, Patterson (Essex) Preston, Richardson, Scott, Tooley, Wigle—27.

The original motion, as amended, was carried on the same division.

SUPPLY BILL.

Mr. CROOKS moved the first reading of the Supply Bill. Carried.

ASSESSMENT ACTS.

The amendments made in Committee on Mr. Springer's Bill to amend the Assessment Acts were concurred in.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

The House went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Act respecting Building Societies, and reported it with amendments.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill to amend cap 2, 38 Vic., respecting the readjustment of the representation in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD explained that by the operation of the Bill of last session the village of Stanville was attached to the East Riding of York, and that the Bill restored the village to its old riding, as the people desired.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

RETURNS.

Mr. Wood presented the report of the Educational Department for 1876.

Also returns respecting the Hamilton and North-western and the North Simcoe Railways.

THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

In reply to Mr. Cameron,

Mr. MOWAT said he expected that the House would be able to close its labours by Friday next.

The House adjourned at 1:15 a. m.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Hon. Attorney-General Mowat — On Wednesday — Bill intituled, "An Act to correct verbal errors in certain Bills passed this session."