

Mr. Hardy presented the report of the Commissioner appointed to enquire into matters relating to the Central Committee, and also the evidence taken before the same.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Mr. TOOLEY moved for "a return of all students attending the Agricultural College from the commencement of the institution to the present time. Such return to give the names of the students in full, together with the residence of their parents or guardians, and their profession, trade or occupation; also to show the present place of residence and occupation of all such students as shall have left the College; also the length of time each student has remained in the institution." He did not wish to be understood as attacking the management of the institution; but many people throughout the country were of opinion that it was not carrying out the objects for which it had been established. He believed that if a vote of the electors were taken, a majority of them would declare in favour of abolishing the institution. The object of his motion was to ascertain if a majority of the students who attended the College were devoting themselves to agricultural pursuits or not; for the opinion prevailed that many of them did not afterwards follow farming. He had been surprised on his visit to the institution last winter, in company of other members, to notice that the stock was not at all of the kind that should be expected on what was termed a Model Farm. He found also that the amount realized from the sale of surplus stock had come far short of what had been expected, though a large amount of money had been expended in its purchase. Judging from the questions which were given to the students, there was a great necessity for teaching of a more practical kind than that which was now in vogue in the College. He found one question to be "Give the zoological classification of the sloth, whale, bear, ox, rat, baboon," and a number of other animals, winding up with "man"; and he was surprised to see that "man" was the last on the list. (Laughter.)

An HON. MEMBER.—The first shall be last. (Laughter.)

Mr. TOOLEY contended that the object of the institution was to give practical training to farmers' sons in the improved methods of agriculture. He trusted when the return was brought down it would show a state of affairs that would be satisfactory to the country. If it showed that the institution was fulfilling its original object, he was quite sure that the country would not grudge the expense of its establishment and maintenance; but if the farm was not managed in the interests of the agricultural community, general dissatisfaction would be the result.

Mr. WOOD said that judging by the remarks made by the hon. gentleman he expected that the return would show that the Model Farm was not fulfilling its object, but he could assure him that when the return was brought down he would find that a very large proportion of those who had been students in the institution were following agricultural pursuits. (Hear, hear.) So far from the College being unpopular in the country, he was sure that it never stood so high in the popular estimation as to-day. (Hear, hear.) They had had a wing added to it, by which additional accommodation to the extent of 45 pupils had been afforded; so that while they had only some 40 pupils last year, it was now occupied to its greatest capacity. It was now patronized by farmers' sons from every section of the country. With regard to the sale of stock, the hon. gentleman knew that the expectations of stock-breeders throughout the entire Province had not been realized last year by from 25 to 30 per cent. at least. As to the quality of the stock, he regretted that the hon. gentleman who was a representative of the yeomanry of the country, should have found it necessary at this late day to find fault with the stock of the farm. When hon. members paid a visit to the Farm last winter—though no special preparations had

been made for their visit—they came back and had not a word to say in the way of complaint. (Hear, hear.) The opinion not only of leading Canadian stock-raisers, but of prominent breeders from the other side of the line, had been highly in favour of the stock kept on the farm. He would gladly enter upon a further discussion of the whole subject, but for the fact that the Report of the College for the year 1877 would be down in a few days, when hon. gentleman would be in possession of all the facts regarding the institution. There was no objection to the return.

Mr. TOOLEY said that he had no intention of attacking the management of the institution; but there was a feeling that it was not fulfilling its original object.

Mr. CREIGHTON said he was pleased to hear that the majority of those now attending the college were farmers' sons, as that had not been the case in the past. The improvement he attributed largely to the efforts of Opposition members in bringing the matter to the attention of the Government and of the country. He referred in support of this view to resolutions offered last session by Opposition members, and said that though the Government had voted them down, they had found by a circular issued shortly after the session closed by the President of the College that the principle of those resolutions had been adopted by the Government.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. member was mistaken in assuming originality in regard to his resolution last session to have townships nominate students for the College. That was part of a scheme reported by the Commission appointed before the institution commenced, which laid down plans for the purpose of regulating the proceedings of the College, and the Government had approved of the idea. The principal objection to the resolutions offered by the hon. gentleman last session was that the demand for scholarships was not so great as to admit of the plan being followed out. The desire that the institution should have pupils from every part of the country was felt by everybody, and the Commission had shared in that desire. But in the early period of the college a comparatively small number of applications was sent in, so there had been no object in trying the proposed plan. At present the College was receiving more and more public attention and public approbation; so that the time had probably come when that rule might be followed with advantage.

Mr. LAUDER was sorry to see that the hon. Treasurer proposed to increase the expenditure in connection with the institution during the coming year. He contended that the Agricultural College had not been, and never would be a success, unless there was a radical change in the way in which it was managed. He would like to hear why the Government had dropped the bonuses to students.

Mr. WOOD said he did not propose at this time to discuss this question at length. The discussion of the Estimates was rather premature at this time; but he might state for the information of hon. gentlemen opposite, that the increase in expenditure had been very small compared with the increase in the number of pupils. On turning to "salaries and expenses," it would be found that they were very small. The principal had heretofore undertaken his own duties and those of bursar. Those combined duties had occupied that official sixteen hours a day and he found himself unable to continue them any longer, owing to his health giving way. Under the circumstances the Government deemed it necessary, as a matter of fair play towards the principal, to have some one else to perform the duties of bursar. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the matter of bonuses, he might remark that if in the past students were thereby induced to enter the College, and the Government were now able to fill the institution without bonuses, their discontinuance was not only creditable but a step in the direction of economy. (Cheers.)