

tem of laying off townships was not well adapted to Ontario. The land was laid out in square blocks, without reference to the configuration of the country. The lines must everywhere be on one given course. Nature had not laid out her mountain chains, the rivers or the valleys in precisely straight courses; they run in every direction, and the surveys should be made to conform in some measure to the face of the country. A river, when it was navigable, or of considerable size, should be made a front, with lots abutting on it on either side. The lots should also abut on leading highways. He meant that a road line should be in the first place laid off on the ground best adapted for it, and then tiers of lots laid off on either side of it. The settlers would thus be close together. It would cost them less to maintain roads, and it would be more easy for them to send their children to school, and these were matters of great importance in a new settlement. The system of survey now being acted on was very good in a flat prairie country. It had originated in the prairies of the United States, and had from thence been imported into the wooded and broken country of Ontario, to which it was not at all adapted. It gave a little less labour to the officers of the departments and to surveyors than they would otherwise have, but it was productive of infinite trouble to the settlers, and he (Mr. Dawson) trusted that the Government would endeavour to apply a remedy to this serious evil.

The item \$50,000 for unforeseen and unprovided, was passed.

On the item \$21,970 for the School of Agriculture,

Mr. WOOD stated that he could now reply to statements to the contrary by saying that the majority of students at the College now are farmers' sons. Up to date there have been 188 students, 87 of whom are now on the roll. Of the remaining 101, 71 are following farming, 4 are at other colleges, 18 are engaged in other pursuits, and of 8 they had no trace. Of 87 on the roll 67 are from the farm or garden direct, and the other have expressed their intention of following agriculture or horticulture as their business. The number of students has been doubled within the last year, and they have had to shut the door in the face of as many as were on the roll, who sought admission. He quoted from the report, and contended that great good had been accomplished by the trials made of seeds, in fencing and laying out of grounds, by hard, practical work. There was no expectation of the Agricultural College paying; no Agricultural College ever did pay, and no one ever would pay. The Michigan College, with all its advantages of twenty years' experience, endowments, &c., costs each year about \$28,000, and, so far as farm operations are concerned, we were far ahead of them, though their indoor work might be in advance of ours. Our outside appliances and stock were far superior to those of the Michigan institution. He said that an increase of \$500 had been made in the President's salary, and a Bursar had been appointed at a salary of \$800.

Mr. SCOTT gave credit to the hon. gentleman for doing his utmost to render the farm successful and acceptable to the country, but he apprehended that it would never be a success. He said that on capital account alone \$156,590 had been expended, besides considerable sums for maintenance, the sum for this purpose being considerably increased this year. He thought it not what it should be that an official of that institution should attack in print hon. members who exercise their right of criticising the institution. In 1876 each pupil had cost about \$995, and when they knew that one-half of these pupils had not followed agriculture it appeared that each pupil cost the country that year about \$2,000. He thought that the teaching was too technical, and proceeded to read from the examination papers. Altogether, he said, there was too much theory and too little practice in the institution.

Mr. WIGLE said that though the President in his report last year said that the expense would not be increased, there was a material increase this year.

Mr. TOOLEY approved of having a farm, but took exception to some details.

Mr. GRAHAM thought that the country would be greatly benefited by the experiments at the farm, and was glad to see that the farm was conducted with such ability. If the College did educate the sons of professional men it would do good, inasmuch as it would make them producers instead of consumers.

Mr. FERRIS thought that hon. gentlemen who talked of the cost to the country of these young farmers should consider how much the education of young professional men had cost the country. He contended that they had cost the country ten times as much as the farmers' sons. His son was at the College, and he would rather have his son a farmer than a briefless barrister or a miserable doctor. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOULTER was much better pleased with the Treasurer's statement to-day than last year, and was willing to continue encouraging the institution.

It being six o'clock, the Committee rose and reported.

After recess,

The House went into Committee on
PRIVATE BILLS.

The following Bills were passed through Committee:—

Respecting the Galt and Guelph Railway Company—Mr. Massie.

To amend the Acts relating to the Victoria Railway Company—Mr. Cameron

Respecting certain dams on Black Creek—Mr. Appleby.

To incorporate the Arthur Junction Railway Company—Mr. McGowan.

ERIE AND HURON RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. McCRAVEY, in moving the second reading of the Bill respecting the Erie and Huron Railway Company, gave some explanations regarding the scope of the powers asked for.

Mr. CAMERON said that the Company when incorporated had no apparent capital, and depended on bonuses. Certain municipalities were grouped into guaranteeing \$155,000 in bonuses before the Company organized. Seven shareholders put in \$8,200, which they subsequently withdrew, nothing in the meantime having been done. Afterwards Mr. Manning took the place of Mr. Fairbanks, when the by-law repealing the by-law granting \$155,000 was repealed, and it was contended the original by-law stood. He then went into details respecting Mr. Manning's connection with the Company, stating that it was evidently intended to do work on the money supplied by the grouped municipalities that would have cost \$445,000. A case is now in the Courts on appeal respecting this by-law, and this Bill provided that it (the Bill) would not interfere with these proceedings. The effect of the Bill was simply to get the money of these municipalities.

Mr. PARDEE said that a suit had been decided in favour of the Company, compelling the county to carry out the by-law, and this on appeal. What this Bill asked for was an extension of the time mentioned in the charter. The Bill did not ask any interest on the debentures for the three years during which these should have been in existence. The last clause protected the municipalities.

Mr. SCOTT said that it was not right that this Legislature should interfere in a contract between a municipality and a corporation, but as such a precedent had been established he would vote for the second reading.

Mr. BETHUNE asked the hon. member for East Toronto how many municipalities were opposed to this by-law?

Mr. CAMERON—Three.

Mr. BETHUNE said that it did not appear to him that justice would be done to these municipalities by this Bill. It was practically keeping the by-law in life when it was dying and thereby relieving those opposed to the railway from a burden forced upon them.