

came down.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Mr. WATTERWORTH moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Agricultural and Arts Act. He explained that the object of the Bill was to confine the majority of directors to residents of the municipality in which the Society was situated.

Mr. BALLANTYNE thought that the Bill contained legislation which was protection with a vengeance. In his own riding it worked the greatest injustice. He did not know of a township society which did not proclaim its exhibitions open to the world, and he thought it monstrous to limit the directorate of a society.

Mr. GIBSON agreed to a certain extent with the principle of the Bill, but thought the provisions were too strict. He would like to see some limit placed upon the number of directors who were allowed to be non-residents.

Mr. MERRICK was strongly opposed to the Bill.

Mr. BARK said that it was a good principle that majorities should rule, and thought the legislation proposed was unnecessary and unjust.

Mr. FERRIS supported the Bill, and pointed out that unless the law were changed, weaker societies were in danger of being incorporated by stronger ones, and riding and township societies were liable to be annihilated.

Mr. MOSTYN thought the existing law was just, and would oppose the Bill.

Mr. WOOD said that it was the intention of the law that the riding to which the grant was voted should have complete control over the money, and he saw danger of that intention being frustrated if the law were not changed. He considered it would be extremely unjust if non-residents were allowed to form a majority of the directors in any agricultural society.

Mr. MERRICK said the exhibition had to be held within the riding.

Mr. WOOD said that was quite true, but at the same time it was not in the interests of societies that outsiders should be allowed to control the operations of a society. He did not think the Bill perfect, but it was a step in the right direction. He suggested that the Bill be read a second time and be referred to a Select Committee of the agricultural members of the House.

Mr. CURRIE thought that farmers might safely be allowed to control their own affairs, and saw no need of any such legislation.

Mr. McCRAVEY spoke in favour of the Bill, which he thought would remove an opening for serious injustice which existed, and which had allowed a society in his constituency to be almost destroyed.

Mr. McLAWS and Mr. GRAHAM supported the Bill.

Mr. MCGOWAN opposed the Bill. In his own constituency there were a number of union societies which would be entirely destroyed if it were made law.

Mr. SCOTT thought there was much force in the arguments in favour of the Bill, and would like to see it go to a Select Committee. It seemed to him that in the event of foreign directors obtaining the controlling voice in the management of a society they would be able to control the prize list greatly to the disadvantage of the resident members.

The motion for the second reading was carried on the following division:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Baxter, Bethune, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Coutis, Crooks, Currie, Deacon, Deroche, Ferris, Finlayson, Flesher, Fraser, Gibson, Graham, Grant, Harcourt, Hardy, Hargraft, Hunter, Kean, Lauder, Lyon (Algoma), Lyon (Halton), McCraney, McLaws, McLeod, McMahon, Master, Miller, Morris, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Parkhill, Robinson, Scott, Sinclair, Springer, Striker, Tooley, Watterworth, Widdifield, Wigle, Williams, Wills, Wood—49.

NAYS.—Messrs. Baker, Ballantyne, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Code, Creighton, Harkin, Hay, Long, McDougall, McGowan, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Mostyn, O'Sullivan, Paxton, Preston, Rosevear, White, Wilson—24.

The Bill was read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Ballantyne, Finlayson, Merrick, Gibson, Kean, Mostyn, Bishop, Lyon (Algoma), Sinclair, Tooley, Watterworth, McGowan, Currie, and Rosevear.

#### PRIVATE BILLS.

The following Private Bills were passed through Committee:—

To incorporate the Prudential Life Insurance Co. of Ontario—Mr. Williams.

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

After recess,

The following Bills were passed through Committee:—

To incorporate the Ontario Central Railway—Mr. Brown.

To incorporate the Ontario Veterinary Association—Mr. Bethune.

To amend the Act incorporating the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway Co.—Mr. Williams.

On the Bill respecting the Grand Junction Railway—Mr. Boulter,

Mr. WILLS contended that the Bill was assuming to alter the terms of a by-law under which the city of Belleville granted a bonus to the Company, and strongly opposed the passage of the Bill.

Mr. SCOTT said that the matter had been fully discussed before the Railway Committee, and they had agreed that the Bill was fair to all parties.

Mr. FERRIS argued that the City Council of Belleville having passed a resolution in the direction of the proposed Bill, the hon member for West Peterborough was not taking a tenable position in opposing the Bill.

Mr. WILLS said that the people of Belleville were opposed to the proposed legislation, and strongly contended that the Company should be compelled to abide by the terms of the original by-law, which were that they should build the road to Peterborough. He offered an amendment to that effect.

The amendment was lost, and the Bill passed through Committee without amendment.

The following private Bills also passed through Committee:—

Relating to the Hamilton and North-Western Railway Company—Mr. Williams.

Respecting the Water-Works of the City of Ottawa—Mr. O'Donoghue.

#### STRATFORD AND HURON RAILWAY.

The Bill respecting the Stratford and Huron Railway Company—Mr. Hay—was referred back to a Committee of the Whole and reported with verbal amendments.

#### SECOND READINGS.

The following Private Bills were read a second time:—

To amend the Act incorporating the St. Joseph Union Society of the City of Ottawa—Mr. O'Donoghue.

Respecting the property of the congregation of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Almonte—Mr. Fraser.

To give further powers to the Petrolia Crude Oil and Tanking Company.—Mr. Pardee.

To incorporate the Brantford Street Railway Company—Mr. Meredith.

Respecting the Belleville and North Hastings Railway Company—Mr. Boulter.

#### POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

The Bill to incorporate the Poultry Association—Mr. Wood—passed through Committee.

#### STONE AND TIMBER DRAINAGE.

Mr. WOOD moved the second reading of the Bill to authorize investments in municipal debentures issued in aid of stone and timber drainage. Carried.

#### THE RAILWAY ACT.

Mr. FRASER moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Railway Act of Ontario. The Bill provided for the settlement of disputes as to railway crossings. Carried.

#### SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of Supply on motion of Mr. Wood.

With regard to the item of \$77,400 for agriculture,

Mr. LAUDER desired to know what was to be done with the amount of \$1,000 asked for the establishment of a statistical bureau. Nothing had been done with the vote of last year.

Mr. WOOD explained that this item was asked to be voted, and the Professors of Agriculture in Toronto