

and Guelph would carry on the work if it were found possible. They would secure by circular and other-wise information upon different systems of farming and other matters connected with agriculture in various parts of the Province. This work was being carried out in the Bureaus of Agriculture in the various States, and the results were found to be most satisfactory, and the Bureaus of great assistance to farming throughout the country. It had been found impossible to do anything in the matter last year, as the head of the College was too busy to carry on the work.

The item was carried.

With regard to the item \$107,350 for Arts, Literary, and Scientific purposes,

Mr. LAUDER wished to know why an increase of \$4,000 had been made in the vote to Mechanics' Institutes.

Mr. WOOD explained that the item was based on the estimate of Prof. Buckland. It was thought it would require this sum for the purpose.

The item was passed.

On the item \$23,870 44 for Hospitals and Charities.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the amounts voted as supplementary grants to charitable institutions over the amounts allowed them by statute. The House of Industry at Kingston received \$2,200 a year for the last five years, while the entire local contributions were only \$2,585 71. In one year the whole expenditure in that institution was \$19 40 less than the grant. The grants to the hospital at Hamilton and to other institutions were also in defiance of the statute passed expressly to regulate the expenditure in that direction. He did not know whether or not the fact that the hon. member for Kingston was a warm supporter of the Government had any influence in determining the amount granted to the Kingston institution.

Mr. MOWAT said that his hon. friend had assumed that the amount spent on charitable institutions was spent without reference to the Charity Aid Act, but he was mistaken in taking that position. Schedule A of the statute embraced hospitals, of which there were twelve, ten being aided in exact accordance with the terms of the Act. The next schedule comprised charitable institutions, such as the House of Providence and the House of Industry, the number being twelve, and only two receiving aid otherwise than in conformity to the statute. The third schedule comprised institutions such as the Boys' and Girls' Homes, twenty-six in number. Of these only six were not aided according to the provisions of the Act. With the exceptions he had mentioned, the Act was carried out strictly. All new institutions were aided precisely as the statute enacted, and no increases had been made in the grants to any institutions since the Charity Aid Act was passed which had not been required by the provisions of the Act. The statute provided for assistance not only according to the work done, but also according to the amount contributed from other sources. He denied the insinuation that the amounts which were paid to the Kingston Hospital were influenced in any way by the political leanings of the member for that city. He contended that it was not advisable to lessen the amount granted to charities and hospitals, as the circumstances of the times not only pressed harder against the poor people of the Province, but also lessened the ability of the better-off classes to relieve their necessities. The hospitals at Kingston and Hamilton were especially deserving of aid, and these were the only cases in which aid was given to institutions enumerated in the first schedule of the Act beyond the amount fixed by the statute. Of the institutions mentioned in the second schedule, the only two that were receiving amounts above the fixed grants were the Houses of Industry at Toronto and Kingston, and those amounts were paid in order to make the grant the same as was received before 1874. He did not think the House ought to take advantage of the Act for the purpose of depriving the poor and afflicted of the means of warding off starvation. Of the third schedule under this Act, twenty-six institutions were aided, and to twenty aid was given in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and the remaining institutions were only granted the

additional sums to make up the amounts received before 1874. The six institutions that received extra aid were of the nature of Orphans' and Boys' and Girls' Homes, etc., the increased aid to which, he thought, was extremely necessary to preserve the unfortunate classes aided in them from starvation and disease. He thought the country would acquiesce in the increased aid being paid to the distressed and afflicted, and if the amounts were to be reduced, it would have to be done by other hands than his. (Cheers.)

Mr. LONG contended that Kingston received \$500 more than Toronto, and \$200 more than Hamilton, each of which had a larger population. He did not object to the grants being made, but he thought they should be divided fairly among the cities of the Province. He deprecated the fact that an attempt was being made to make political capital out of this discussion.

Mr. CLARKE (Nortolk) was glad to hear the straightforward speech made by the Attorney-General. He believed that aid should be given to the county poorhouses, for many of them did more work and had a larger number of inmates than many of the institutions that were assisted. He had often urged the Government to support the poorhouse in his county. He thought if support were given by political favour his institution would have received aid long ago.

Mr. WHITE thought this discussion should be perfectly free from political bias. It might be very well for hon. gentlemen opposite to appeal to the House on the ground that the Opposition were desirous of taking away the support of these charitable institutions. All that his side of the House desired was that the grants should be fairly distributed. He read from a calculation to show that while the House of Providence, Toronto, spent \$8,000 more than the Government grant, the Kingston House of Industry spent only \$400 more. This would show that the grants were not fairly distributed. He believed the charitable institutions of the country should receive aid.

Mr. COLE thought the comparison made by the last speaker was not complete. He then went on to show that though the country charities did not receive aid directly, they did indirectly, for in each city charity a large percentage of the patients were from the county and other places in the rural constituencies. He believed the amounts paid to the city institutions were but small as compared with the amounts paid by private subscription.

Mr. MEREDITH said he did not sympathise with all the attacks made upon the Government, and he did not disapprove the Act, but he thought there was one defect in it which he would point out. The amount of grant might be said to depend upon the extravagance of the institution, for if the cost of the maintenance was not so much a smaller grant was given. This was a direct premium upon extravagance.

Mr. FRASER said the hon. gentleman had not discussed this Kingston question very intelligently. The amount to be paid for one year was based on the work of the year before. Thus the amount for 1876 was based upon the work of 1875, and it might be found that too much was given. There was no other way of framing the Act. He claimed also that the full facts had been laid before the House when these matters had been voted upon. If the hon. gentleman had pleased he might have urged this matter in former years. These facts had not been hid from the House, and everybody must have known that these institutions were receiving more money than they were entitled to under the statute. It was claimed by these charities that they deserved larger grants on account of the amount of outside work they had done. No one really believed, he ventured to say, that the Government were influenced by political motives in the amount given to Kingston. It would not do to have reduced the amounts to these institutions; it would have resulted most harmfully to the country, so it was resolved to reduce them at a future time.

Hon. Mr. MEREDITH—How long will this continue?

Mr. FRASER agreed that this should not always continue, but it had not been inter-