

with parties who could not be reached in this way. He moved the second reading.

Mr. MEREDITH was afraid the hon. Minister had promised the agriculturists too much. As a statistical bureau he thought the bureau would be of great use, but he thought the statistics would not be of as great use to the farmer in striking the proper price of products as was thought, because their prices were regulated by the prices in Europe. (Hear, hear.) The law of supply and demand would regulate that. He thought this was a matter which the Dominion Government should attend to instead of the Provinces. In 1877 the Minister of Agriculture had obtained sanction for such a bureau, but he had done nothing under that authority. While the Government was asking the House to pass this measure the Provincial Secretary had mutilated an immigration agent's report, which would have been most useful for the purposes of the Bill and in promoting immigration, and that for a party purpose. This immigration agent (Mr. Smith, of Hamilton) had sent in similar reports in former years, which had been allowed to go to the country. He charged the Provincial Secretary with suppressing information, and declared when that had been done there was no guarantee that the information to be obtained by this bureau would not be treated in a similar manner. He thought that the Bill would not prove to be as beneficial as was anticipated.

Mr. YOUNG thought the Bill was well calculated to carry out the intended object. He agreed with the leader of the Opposition when he said that the prices of produce were regulated by the prices in Europe. He also agreed with him when he said that the law of supply and demand operated in that direction. Regarding the statement that the Dominion Government should carry out this bureau that, however desirable, was impracticable. It needed the co-operation of the different Provinces. He was not certain that the machinery of the Bill would be adequate to collect reliable statistics, but a start had to be made, and then the machinery could be improved. He suggested that statistics regarding railways should also be collected.

Mr. BRODER thought it better to have received statistical information than to have unreliable information. He admitted that the Province should be in a position to give data regarding its produce, etc., yet he thought the sources of information provided were not adequate to furnish satisfactory information. He hoped, however, that the Bill would work all the good anticipated for it. He believed it was time that this Province was abreast of other countries in the matter of collecting statistical information.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

The House resumed at 7:30.

Mr. DRYDEN did not think there would be any difficulty in collecting reliable statistics. He suggested that blank forms might be issued to men who went about the country threshing. He thought this could be done very easily, and that the men engaged in that work would be very willing to furnish figures as to the quantities of grain grown. By this means he thought that almost accurate returns could be collected. Another way in which the bureau might be made of great benefit to the farmer would be by collecting information as to the different insects which were destroying various products. He heartily supported the measure.

Mr. HARDY rose to reply to the member for London. He was prepared, he said, notwithstanding the bluster of the hon. gentleman, to meet him in reference to the observations he had addressed to the House before recess in allusion to himself either on the floor of that House or on the public platforms of the country. The hon. gentleman had taken occasion to refer personally to himself, and he was reminded of the hon. gentleman's visit to Brantford, whither he went on purpose to annihilate the Provincial Secretary, on which occasion the leader of the Opposition, the leader of a party—or of a fragment of an Opposition which might aspire to be a party—was met by and addressed an audience of sixty-four persons. (Laughter.) With reference to John Smith and his report he would only say that, after making a slanderous statement alleging the mutilation and even falsification of that report, and finding that statement to be without foundation when the document in manuscript was passed across the floor of the House, a gentleman would have been expected to admit himself in the wrong and made a called for retraction. But, hon. gentlemen opposite had not even followed the example of their organ in that respect and taken back the infamous and base slander. (Cheers.) Regarding the report of Mr. Smith himself, the hon. gentleman sketched the absurd way in which Mr. Smith in his report rambled to the North-West, Muskoka, and other points of the compass, dealing with dividends on certain railway stocks—dealing in fact in half of his report with everything and anything but matters bearing on immigration pertinent to such a report. Mr. Smith had expressed his opinions about the increased purchasing power of the people and the return of public confidence owing to good crops—would any one contend that the Provincial Secretary was bound to disseminate the opinions of John Smith on these general trade and other subjects in his report on Ontario immigration matters in Hamilton? Mr. Smith had inserted in his report much that was doubtless interesting and harmless about projected cotton factories, the building trade of

Hamilton and the preference stock, bonded debt, etc., of railways. Yet it was within the proper discretion of the Provincial Secretary to decide whether Mr. Smith's wise saws on these matters should have circulation in the report prepared for the Legislature. It showed how hard-driven hon. gentlemen opposite were after five years to make a point against the Provincial Secretary when they were compelled to resort to such charges. (Cheers.) He read the reports made by Mr. Smith in former years to show that there was no analogy between them and the one which had been cut down. There was no colouring in them as in the one under discussion. The report from the same agent had not been published in full by the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, and he did not suppose there was any criminal intent in such not being done. In the reports of the other immigration agents there were no irrelevant statements. He held that he had a perfect right to say how much of a report he would print. Hon. gentlemen opposite could see the rights of the Province trampled upon without raising a protest, but the constitution was in danger if John Smith's opinions were not printed in full. (Laughter.) Whatever he did, he did in good faith. (Cheers.)

Mr. CREIGHTON spoke at length of the different reports made by Mr. Smith, holding that there were other things mentioned in his reports not relating to immigration, which were not struck out.

Mr. SINCLAIR regretted the personal character of the debate. He thought so serious a charge as that made by the hon. leader of the Opposition should not have been made upon so slight grounds. He congratulated the hon. Treasurer upon the Bill which he had introduced. He did not think the farmers had any complaint to make about prices, but he thought the information would be of use in enabling them to sell at the proper time.

Mr. WATERS thought the bureau would supply what had been felt for some time to be necessary. He saw no difficulty in collecting the desired information, and he had no doubt that reliable information could be obtained from the different bodies whose services were to be utilized. He endorsed the Bill, and believed it was a step in the right direction. Whatever benefitted the farmer, whom he believed the bureau would benefit, benefitted the country at large.

Mr. LAIDLAW regretted the personal tone which the discussion had assumed. He believed the Bill was worthy of support. It would supply a want long felt by the agriculturists of the Province. The machinery to be employed would, he believed, collect correct information.

Mr. HAY thought the Bill was a good one, and would greatly subserve the interests of the farmer in enabling him to get better prices for several minor products. The farmer being put in possession of information regarding countries other than his own, would be greatly benefitted. The information gathered would be of considerable use also to immigrants. In his opinion there was no difficulty in obtaining the statistics. He was glad that the bureau was intended to give statistics of manufactures, because the true interests of any country lay in its industrial supremacy. He suggested that full information regarding railways should also be obtained. He supported the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The House in Committee reported a number of Bills.

#### DIVISION COURTS.

Mr. HARDY, in moving the second reading of the Bill relating to Division Courts in the districts of Nipissing, Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Thunder Bay, explained that there was a doubt whether the Act of 1880 applied to these districts, and the Bill was for the purpose of removing this doubt.

The Bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

The Attorney-General—On Monday next—Bill to make provision in regard to certain legal matters.