

Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Monday, Feb. 16.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—to amend the Act to secure wives and children the benefit of life insurance.

Mr. Dryden—To consolidate the debt of Whitby.

Mr. Fell—To amend the Consolidated Municipal Act.

Mr. Meredith—Respecting employers' liability to make compensation for personal injury to workmen in their service.

Mr. Baxter—To confirm a bye-law of the town of Niagara Falls.

Mr. McKim—Respecting the old cemetery in Palmerston.

THE MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Hon. A. M. ROSS, moved the first reading of a Bill respecting the settlement of the debts to the Municipal Loan Fund. He stated that of the towns indebted to the Municipal Loan Fund all had settled with the exception of St. Catharines and Cobourg. The former still owed \$6,000, and the latter a larger amount. The Government did not desire to force the settlement of the claim, as they thought it would be unfair to do so at once, but wished to extend the time for a period of years so as to enable them to issue debentures to meet their obligations.

The Bill was read a first time.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. LAIDLAW—Mr. Speaker, I desire to rise to a question of privilege. In The Scottish American Journal, a paper published in New York City, and largely distributed through this country, there appeared an article from a correspondent reflecting on the member for South Perth, yourself, Mr. Speaker (laughter), as the member for Centre Wellington, and myself. It is written in broad Scotch, and I am sure I can do justice to it. (Laughter.) I do not know who wrote it, but I regret that any man should so far forget himself as to write what is manifestly untrue.

An hon. Member—It was not a Scotchman. (Laughter.)

Mr. LAIDLAW—Perhaps it was an Irishman. The paragraph reads as follows:—

"The next day, vera muckle to my surprise, what did I get but a complimentary ticket frae James Laidlaw, Esq., member of Parliament for South Wellington, securin' me a seat i' the Ladies' Gallery of the House to see the opening ceremonies. I didna gang, for the exposure o' the night afore obleeged me to bide in the parlor o' the Walker House the hail day; but at night, fess, I made up for it! There was myself, an' Maister Laidlaw, an' Cornel Clarke—(great laughter)—(the Speaker o' the House, as weel as bein' oor ain member for Centre Wellington), and there was Maister Ballantyne, the member for Perth, and twa or three mair o' less consequence. (Renewed laughter.) Man, but we had a splore. Of course we didna get fu'. Na, na, we jest enjoyed oorsels to the fu'. I didna think I ever sang better a' my life than I did that night, an' the stories we a' tellt were by ornar divertin'."

I desire to give that paragraph a flat denial. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) No such gathering took place, and I can only say it is untrue and as false as the baseless fabric of a vision. (Great laughter.)

COURT INTERPRETER.

Hon. O. MOWAT, in answer to Mr. Robillard, said petitions had been received by the Government praying for the appointment of an interpreter for the Courts in the united counties of Prescott and Russell, competent in both the English and French languages. He had also been in correspondence upon the subject, and had come to the conclusion that proper provision should be made for the appointment of such officer.

Mr. MEREDITH asked if the Hon. the Attorney-General proposed to appoint an interpreter in the Courts where the population was largely German.

Hon. O. MOWAT said provision should be made for French, German, and Gaelic also.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Mr. DRYDEN moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when it is undesirable to continue the annual expenditure out of the public funds for the purpose of holding a Provincial Ex-

hibition under the direction and management of the Board of Agriculture, and that it is desirable to consider other channels through which the appropriation might be used more to the advantage of the agricultural interests of the country." In supporting the resolution he said although the Provincial Exhibition had done much good in the past it did not follow that it was accomplishing good results now. When it was established there were very few exhibitions in the country, but now the circumstances were all changed, and the exhibition rage had developed to such a degree that every town and hamlet in the country had its annual show. If it was urged that the Provincial Exhibition was maintained as an educational institution, then he said the others were educational institutions also. He claimed that in Toronto, Hamilton, and London they were able to give a better exhibition than

THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

He was not blaming them, for he believed they had done their best, but it was not possible that men coming from all over the country gathering together in a strange city could undertake to run so successful an exhibition as those who were on the spot all the time. In that case people could not expect the same order and system. He had placed the word "annual" in the resolution, because he believed the only ground on which the Provincial Exhibition was supported now was that it was educational in its character. Of what use was its going to London the present year? If the Provincial did not go there the usual exhibition would be held anyway. In Eastern Ontario it was not the same, because they

COULD NOT HOLD LARGE EXHIBITIONS

there, and he was willing that the Provincial should be held there every three or four years. To the argument that it must be continued because it was Provincial in its character, he apprehended that the exhibitions in different parts of the country were both local and Provincial, and that the one held in Toronto year by year was quite as Provincial as that held under the auspices of the Agricultural and Arts Association. The Exhibitions at London, Hamilton, Guelph, and other places were sufficiently Provincial for the purposes required. Then it was argued that we must have some exhibition which was purely a farmers' one, because there was a danger of the others degenerating into a horse-racing, dog-training circus. His idea was that if these features were objectionable the only way to stop them was to educate public opinion to frown them down. For his own part he had never been at a Provincial Exhibition where these features were not present. He urged that there were other directions in which the money might more profitably be used, and suggested that it should be turned into the direction of the Farmers' Institutes held with so much success this year. Then he would suggest that some of the money should be spent in the direction of printing more reports interesting to farmers, or giving prizes for the best farms, or essays upon farming subjects.

THE GENERAL OPINION.

Mr. WATERS contended that the Agricultural and Arts Association had great difficulty in getting cities to have the Provincial Exhibition. London, although taking it this year, did not want it; Ottawa and Kingston might want it occasionally, but the fact was that the centres of industry would rather have their own exhibitions. Great good had been done in past years by the Provincial Exhibition, in stimulating enterprise, in raising and breeding first-class stock, and indeed he was sure that no other enterprise had done so much in this direction. He commended the views of Mr. Dryden to the Government.

Mr. GRAHAM thought the Provincial Exhibition, though properly managed, had outlived its usefulness, and that the money could be used to more advantage in other channels. His idea would be to give this amount to Farmers' Institutes. It would make about \$60 to each riding, and he would make it obligatory on each riding to grant a like amount, and then they could have good Farmers' Institutes.

Mr. CARNEGIE agreed with the member for South Ontario in the statement that the institution should not be continued for the good it had done in the past, but if it were continued it must be for its present good qualities. He agreed with the member also with respect to the outside attractions, and he thought the day had come when the objects of the exhibition could be divided, and that they should have an agricultural exhibition pure and simple, consisting of farm products, live stock, and farm machinery. In his opinion the most successful exhibition which the Association had held in the last half-dozen years was the one at Kingston—not for the receipts taken, but for the amount of live stock sold which would have a beneficial effect on the district—so he would have the meetings taken to places which would be benefited in like manner. As to localities not wanting the exhibition, they had always several applications, and the City of London had sent a deputation for it. He hoped the motion would not be pressed.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) wished to represent the state of public opinion in his district. He had attended a meeting of the united societies of Wentworth, which had come to the conclusion that the time had come when the grant should be stopped. Prominent

agriculturists like Mr. Stock and Mr. Rymal thought that the exhibition had outlived its usefulness, and the opinion of the meeting he had referred to was that the grant should be divided up to different sections of the Province. He thought the suggestion made for the division of the fund among the ridings for the purpose of holding Farmers' Institutes was a good one. The Institute held in Hamilton was a good one, and the county council had already taken steps for making it permanent, and had secured lecturers for this purpose. He contended that the expression of opinion generally was against the grant being continued.

Mr. BRODER did not agree with any of the speakers. The Provincial Exhibition was not a financial scheme at all, but rather an educational factor than anything else. He did not agree that the exhibition should be solely agricultural, for he had yet to learn that the farming community are so impervious to influence or so highly educated that they should not have the opportunity of studying art, or they were so weak that they would be contaminated with little side shows. He held that the day of its usefulness was not gone, and if \$10,000 would not make it a success, add \$10,000 more. If the argument that it was not a financial success was a good one, then they would have to do away with the Agricultural Farm for the same reason. It was time the matter was set at rest and members ceased shouting about \$10,000; the East never asked for it to be done away with. Toronto was always glad to have the exhibition until it could have one of its own, and the same was true of London and Hamilton. The Provincial Exhibition had educated these places till they could support one of their own. Let the East have a chance till they could support their own.

Mr. BASKERVILLE thought that Ottawa had a very good exhibition, notwithstanding the side shows, and that Ottawa would always be ready to prepare well for the show when it could go there.

Mr. WOOD was quite satisfied that a large proportion of the farmers of Hastings are in favour of doing away with the Provincial Exhibition, and of opinion that its day of usefulness was past. He was satisfied that the central shows had taken its place.

Mr. LAIDLAW wished to disabuse the mind of the House that the Provincial Exhibition was going begging for a place, for there was still one place ready to receive it—the great agricultural county of Wellington, with Guelph as its centre. It was a decided success there in 1883, and he thought if held there it would be a success again. Yet he thought the feeling of the country was against the continuance of the show.

Mr. ERMATINGER contended that all exhibitions used side shows to draw crowds, for even the great Toronto Exhibition had degenerated in this matter. He thought that the Provincial Exhibition had done a great deal of good, and the men who had conducted it were worthy of all praise. But still there should be some other way found for spending the money. There appeared to be a preponderance of opinion in favour of abolishing the grant, but still there was a wide difference as to how the money should be spent. He advocated the spending of the money in grants to the county exhibition.

Mr. MERRICK was quite convinced that the opinion in the East, notwithstanding the view of the member from Hastings, was not in favour of abolishing the grant. For many years the West had benefited by the exhibition, and it came therefore with bad grace from the members of the West, when they had exhibitions of their own, to propose the abolition of the grant. If the whole of the money were divided it would only give about \$100 to each county, and this would do no good. Let the exhibition come East for a few years, and if need be, hold it every two years only, with a grant of \$20,000. The exhibition in Kingston was a good one, and it should be continued so as to come there again. Let the exhibition be held in Ottawa, Kingston, Brockville, Peterborough, Cornwall, and other towns. He was entirely against doing away with the grant. He was afraid that the West had benefited hitherto at the expense of the East, and he called upon the Government to mete out its aid with an equal hand.

Mr. PHELPS was in favour of discontinuing the grant, and he contended that it was favoured only by manufacturers. His constituency was against the grant. While he did not say that the grant should be stopped this year, yet it should be withdrawn in the near future. He considered that there were not 100 farmers in Ontario in favour of it.

Mr. CARNEGIE—Didn't Collingwood send a deputation asking for the show?

Mr. PHELPS—Yes, but the Collingwood people had erected buildings for a show, and were well situated for holding an exhibition. He still thought that there were not a hundred farmers in Ontario in favour of the show. He thought the motion should be a means of guiding the Government in deciding.

Mr. WILMOT was sure that Mr. Phelps was quite mistaken in his view. He did not say that they would not be willing to give up the Provincial Show on condition of the country fairs being supported by the Government. It was a great mistake, however, to suppose that there were not 100, 1,000, or 10,000 farmers who were in favour of the show. The Western men must remember that they had the Agricultural Farm