

would cover the market price of hay, oats, and other grain, together with the original cost of the animal, it was a good thing to feed cattle because while raising stock a farmer was always making that which kept up his land in fertility. It was a very easy matter to go up to the College and find fault with it, as the hon. member for West Peterboro' (Mr. Carnegie) had done, but no person of intelligence in the Province ever believed when this institution was inaugurated that it would be a paying one. That was an utter impossibility. It was an educational institution. But if the accounts of the College could be kept apart, those of the experimental department from the college, and the expenditure in connection with the farm proper by itself, it would be very satisfactory to farmers, and he thought it could very well be done. When we looked upon the amount of money invested, and which year by year was expended for the purpose of giving us education in the profession and pursuit of agriculture, we should not forget to look at the results also. There was no man, he did not care how well posted he might be in agricultural matters, or how willing he might be to criticize the experimental work, who could put his finger on any branch of that work and say how much it had

#### BENEFITTED THE FARMERS

of this country. He found that up to the 3rd December last year they had expended on capital account, that was including buildings, purchase of farm, and everything, \$269,198 52. Then, sir, what do we find? How does that

#### RATE PER HEAD

of the population of Ontario? It rates simply at 14 cents. A family of five persons pays simply 70 cents, or 14 cents per head has been taken out of the Provincial Treasury for encouraging and aiding agricultural pursuits in the Province of Ontario. Say nothing of how that is expended, he asked any fair-minded person, as he knew the welfare of the country depended largely, if not altogether upon our agricultural pursuits, if that was an extravagant sum. Then last year, for instance, the total expenditure in connection with the College, after deducting the revenue derived from the institution, was \$37,779. To make the matter as fair as possible, he would take the interest on this capital invested at five per cent., which would represent \$13,459 92 more, making a total of \$51,238 92. How much was that per head of the population? It simply took out of our revenue at the rate of 23 cents per head. That was actually the cost of the College and farm to the people of this country last year. He asked if we were receiving a commensurate advantage. He thought we had only to take into account the exports of agricultural produce—not for the Province of Ontario, because under our system the trade and navigation returns were made out for the whole Dominion, and therefore we could not arrive accurately at what the exports of any Province were, but we knew Ontario exported more agricultural produce than any other Province, or perhaps more than any two Provinces in the Dominion to-day—to show what value we must attach to experiments which would result in increasing our produce. By a comparison of agricultural exports of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, butter, cheese, barley, wheat, and wool in the years 1877 and 1884 he showed that they had risen from \$11,518,935 in the former year to \$23,749,854 in the latter, or an increase of \$12,430,919. In view of the fact that our whole prosperity was based to such a large extent on the prosperity of the farmer he thought any expenditure we incurred in aiding agricultural development would be not for the benefit of the farmers alone, but for the benefit of the whole country. Speaking of the establishment of the creamery at the College, he said there was no doubt that it would tend to enhance the value of our butter, and any slight increase in the value of that article meant very much money in the pockets of the farmers as a whole. The farmers of the country were not all able to take advantage of the College, but he found that no less than thirty counties were represented there during the past year. He found also that of the 188 students, 120 were residents of Ontario. He did not only hold that the College was doing

#### A VAST AMOUNT OF GOOD

in the direction of educating those young men who went through it, because when they left College they carried the education they had received with them into the localities in which they settled down, and we as farmers were deriving an immense amount of good from the knowledge which was disseminated. And not only the agricultural community but those carrying on agricultural journals were very largely aided by the experiments being carried on at this farm. These journals reached perhaps fifty per cent. of the farmers of the Province. In addition to these we found our leading newspapers making extracts from the college reports, so that the farmers who did not receive the reports were supplied with all the most important information they contained. In fact we could not by any means estimate the good that the institution was doing to the Province. He thought it was a move in the right direction, to increase the fees for attendance to students coming from places outside the Province. He could not by any possible means vote for the resolution of the hon. member for West Peterboro' (Mr. Carnegie), because he had not made out such a case as would justify the appointment of this Committee. He was as willing as the hon. gentleman himself to have an investigation

of the management if anything could be shown to be wrong. He was not one of those who would have stuck up for party in such a matter, and if the hon. gentleman had made out a case he would have voted for his motion, but not having done so he considered there was no information required that could not be obtained through the Public Accounts Committee, and the appointment of a special committee would incur a useless expenditure.

Mr. CLANCY thought the motion in question contained nothing in the nature of want of confidence, and considered it unfair that the Government should impute such designs to the mover. The Treasurer had not answered the arguments of the hon. member from West Peterboro' in relation to facts concerning the attendance and unnecessarily large expenses of the College, and he quoted figures to establish that while there was a constant decrease in the attendance there was a corresponding increase in the expenditure. He did not expect the institution to maintain itself, with a surplus at the end of the year, and at the same time employ efficient professors with every modern facility for the furtherance of the objects of the institution. There was no doubt about the advantages derived from the Farm, but if they were to be the cause of such extravagance the motion for full details was not out of place and was worthy the support of the House.

Mr. BISHOP said it seemed to him the only conclusion the farmers could draw from the speech of the member for West Peterborough (Mr. Carnegie) was that it was an attack upon the only College which was peculiarly theirs in the Province. The hon. gentleman read from the reports to show that the implements which the institution got some years ago should have lasted until now. He (Mr. Bishop), as a farmer, knew that it was impossible to get along from year to year without new implements. If the hon. gentleman was sincere in his desire to curtail the expenditure

#### HE MIGHT BETTER HAVE ASKED

for a committee to investigate the expenses of another institution (evidently referring to Government House) not many yards away. He quoted several of the items paid out on this institution aggregating some thousands of dollars in the whole, and hinted that the member for West Peterborough was too good a Conservative to seek an investigation into this. He referred to the value of experiments in grain alone to the agriculturists of Ontario, and recalled the frauds which were practised a few years ago in the sale of seed grain which proved to be worthless, but which nevertheless brought outrageous prices before it was tried. If it was true that this institution should be done away with because many of the young men who went there did not stick to teaching then it was equally true on the same principle that the Model and Normal Schools should be done away with, for while 1,000 new teachers were turned out last year, 500 old ones left the profession. The farmers used to be regarded as the hewers of wood and drawers of water, but he asked which the country could live without, if either the farmers or lawyers doctors or other professional men were banished to Hong Kong or Botany Bay. It took more brains to be a successful farmer than it did to engage in any other pursuit, and as this was being recognized the necessity for an education such as was given by means of the Agricultural College was felt.

Mr. MCCOLMAN admitted that the stock on the Model Farm was first-class and well chosen but would not be put to good advantage unless kept within the Province. The accounts of the College were compiled in such a manner as to require great labour in securing the information desired. There was no reason why such an institution could not have the books well kept. He concluded by urging the Government to withdraw the examination necessary before entrance as a student could be secured.

Mr. FREEMAN said there was only one thing in the speech of the hon. member for West Peterborough (Mr. Carnegie) which he endorsed and that was the statement that we were essentially an agricultural community, and that the progress of this country begins with the agricultural industries. There was one fact he wished to bring out briefly. He had the honour to represent an agricultural constituency in which there were some good farmers. A few years ago the counties were grouped together and rewards given for the best managed farms. One gentleman near him in the county of Simcoe was fortunate enough to secure the gold medal. This gentleman wished his son to be a doctor or lawyer, but the young man was honest—(laughter)—and turned his attention to farming, and was sent to the Agricultural College. The point he (Mr. Freeman) wished to make was this, that the gentleman he referred to felt that it was necessary that his son should go there. He felt that the training his son would receive there would enable him to carry on the farm even better than he had himself. Now, if the farmers thought it was really necessary that their sons should go to this College for a further education than they receive at home he was sure that pointed to a fact they should not forget. He might have referred to other things, and amongst them to the attention which was devoted to the reports issued from the institution, not only in this country but elsewhere, but he would not take up the time of the House at any greater length.

Mr. PRESTON said he had the honour to represent a large rural con-

stituency, and thought it was in the interests of the Province that this college and farm should be conducted in a way satisfactory to all parties. It was notorious it had been rumoured from time to time that the institution was costing too much in proportion to its results. In the first place, it struck him that there should only be one responsible head to it instead of two. The President had asked for \$12,000 for a chemical laboratory. It was a question in his (Mr. Preston's) mind whether a little chemistry had much to do with practical farming. On that side of the House they were desirous that the institution should be continued at a moderate expense. It was a question whether the farmers of this Province should be taxed so highly for this purpose. They had no possible means of knowing where the students settled after graduating. It struck him that if non-residents were admitted at all they should be required to give a guarantee that they would remain in the Province because it was unfair that Ontario should be taxed to educate foreigners. The figures which had been submitted by the member for West Peterborough did call, in his opinion, for an investigation.

Mr. AWREY was very glad that the discussion had arisen, as the farmers of the country would discover from it who were their true friends; they would discover from the debate why the attacks are made upon the one institution the country possesses for the special education and improvement of farmers. He was quite satisfied that they would pronounce the attacks made upon the institution unfair and unjust. Men from almost all parts of the world were in attendance, and Ontario ought to be proud that it possesses an institution which has attracted such attention. The College and Farm were doing a good work for farmers; and as to the Creamery, he thought it had done fairly well for one month's trial. He proceeded to read from the report of the Farm statements from the parties to whom some of the butter had been shipped respecting the quality, from which it appeared that the product of the Creamery had taken a high place in the market.

Mr. MEREDITH in a short address endeavoured to defeat Mr. Carnegie against the attacks on his arguments.

Mr. D. MACKENZIE, though not a practical farmer, thought the institution was doing a great work for the farmers of Ontario. He was quite of the opinion that no investigation was needed.

Hon. G. W. ROSS—It is no use for the members of the Opposition to say that the motion is not a covert attack upon the College. Every word uttered attacking the College has come from the Opposition, and the newspaper attacks made upon it are made by the organs of the Conservative party; even the organ of the hon. member for London is constantly attacking the College. The candidate whom he supported in West Middlesex openly and avowedly declared that the College should be abolished, and here in the House we have an attack made upon the institution, which certainly shows that the Conservatives have little or no sympathy with the farm. The hon. member for London had a great deal of sympathy for this young member for West Peterborough—this new member, this unsophisticated member. The hon. member for London must have felt bad as he saw the miserable exhibition the member for West Peterborough made of himself in making an attack upon the College which he was unable to maintain by facts or arguments, and I am sure he must have sympathized with him as the scattered facts were exposed and his position demolished. I suppose the hon. member for London thought that a little sympathy was useful in order that he might have courage to renew the attack on a future occasion. It is quite a common thing for the leader of the Opposition to raise the flag and shout the battle cry—"whooping her up," as it is sometimes called—as he sees the crushed hosts that began the debate with so much valour scattered to the winds; as he sees them baffled and defeated, receding from certain defeat. So the member for West Peterborough is an unsophisticated innocent; (laughter) and he is industrious, and courageous (laughter), of course he is all this, and permit me to say that his industry is microscopic. If there is one man who has the faculty for dealing with little things, and the inability to grasp considerable things better than my hon. friend, I would like to see him. "Here a little and there a little" he follows to the very letter, and it is thus that his little argument is built up.

There was a little man,

And he had a little soul,

And he said I will try, try, try,

If it is not within our reach

To make a little speech,

Let us give a little hi, hi, hi. (Laughter).

And so he wants the officers of the Agricultural College investigated by a committee whom it would be his privilege to name.

Mr. MEREDITH—The Government always controls in the House.

Hon. G. W. ROSS—It is very well that they do control. It is very well that the Government controls the Agricultural College. Who could there be more fitted to investigate the accounts of the College than the Public Accounts Committee. They have power to send for persons and papers. The hon. member for London is on that committee; and then there is the industrious member for West Peterborough; there is also another admirable member on the committee—the member for North Grey. With himself to direct these intelligent and industrious