

# Fifth Parliament --- Third Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TUESDAY, Feb. 23.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) presented the fourth report of Private Bills Committee.

Hon. T. B. Pardee presented the fifth report of the Railway Committee.

## FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read the first time:—

Mr. Laidlaw—To amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Hess—To extend the operation of the Land Titles Act 1835 to the county of Perth.

Mr. Harcourt—To amend the Act respecting building and other societies.

Mr. Freeman—To separate certain municipalities in Wellington and Grey and erect the same into the County of Palmerston.

## THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Hon. A. M. ROSS—Last year during the discussion in connection with the Agricultural College I announced to the House that the Government had in contemplation the establishment of an advisory Board in connection with that institution. I also stated that I intended to visit some American institutions which are mainly conducted under Boards, for the purpose of seeing how these systems were managed. I visited the Agricultural Colleges at Lansing, Michigan, and those belonging to the States of Iowa, Kansas, and Indiana. And although I found all these colleges doing splendid work, and perhaps better equipped, and having also larger attendance than ours, still I came back convinced that in purely agricultural instruction and experimental work, Ontario took the lead of them all. (Applause.) In fact these colleges have gone more into mechanical schools than agricultural colleges. Their endowment was given by Congress in 1862 for the purpose of founding an agricultural college and industrial school in every State, and they have become more industrial in their character, for the reason that they have found out, as we have done here, that there is difficulty in getting a large number of farmers convinced that an attendance of two, three, or four years is needed at a college in order to learn the business of farming. They have been compelled, therefore, for the purpose of filling their colleges, to branch out into

## THE INDUSTRIAL SPHERE.

In fact, a large proportion, if not a great majority, of the attendance is of teachers, civil engineers, and mechanical engineers, and other branches of trade. Many of them have gone into large expenses, and Michigan has erected a large building for the purpose of giving instruction in mechanical engineering. We have not attempted to go into anything of that kind, and by those means they have made the colleges across the lines more popular than ours. I mentioned the Act of 1882 as the one under which the colleges were established, and it appears that Congress gives to each State 30,000 acres of land for each Senator and member of Congress by which it is represented. These lands were donated to the States for the purpose of endowment. None of the fund produced is to be expended in buildings, and it is to be perpetually kept up for the purposes mentioned. If any loss should occur in the fund then the State would

## HAVE TO MAKE IT UP.

All these institutions are worked under Boards of trustees, which are corporations having control of the funds, somewhat the same as the University is managed by the senate. Under our system, where our educational institutions have to be supported by annual grants made by the House, I am quite certain that the House would never consent to the adoption of the American system, and vote large sums of money to be managed by independent boards. I propose, therefore, that the Board shall be a purely advisory one. Very shortly after I became Minister of Agriculture I became very strongly of the opinion that the establishment of such a Board composed of practical farmers was desirable. It is the desire of the Government that the institution should be recognized as a purely farmers' institution, one of the leading educational institutions of the country, and by the identification of the farmers of the country we think we shall succeed more completely in these ends. One object I am sure will be brought about, namely, that we shall free it from a great deal of the criticism to which it has been subjected. In past years there has been a tendency to criticize the institution from a purely party standpoint, and I think this will take from the criticism the

political animus which has formerly characterized it. It is our desire to have on that Board farmers of practical experience, well known to the farmers of the country. I know that there are farmers of experience in both political parties, and the Government believe that we can get farmers from

## THE FRONT RANKS OF THE PROFESSION

of both political views who will sit on the Board; we shall therefore see that both sides are represented. Then the Bill contains another proposition. That is that each county and unorganized district shall be entitled to send and maintain there one student without the payment of the entrance or tuition fees. The advantages which will result from this are that the students being nominated by the County Councils, the College will be brought to their notice. The work it is doing will be under their attention, and I have no doubt that these Councils will see that the most advanced and most deserving of the farmers' sons have the nomination. Another advantage will be that the students will be regarded as the representatives of the county, and they will thus take an interest in the affairs of the College. By these means and the students themselves the advantages of the College will be more thoroughly disseminated over the Province. Any one who looks over the returns will see that some counties send many students while others do not send any. This arises from the fact that the counties were not so interested in the success of the institution as they would in future be. With these explanations, I move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. CARNEGIE said that the effect of the Bill, as it stood, was to divide the responsibility between the Commissioners and Advisory Board. He believed the Minister should have made the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association the Advisory Board. And the objection was that the Board would, after all, be a political body. If a Conservative were appointed, and if he were a man of convictions, and expressed them, his usefulness would be gone. He questioned the propriety of giving each County Council power to attend the College. It would become a matter of mere favouritism. If provision were made for favourable terms to students who had been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, it should be irrespective of the counties whence the students came.

Mr. CLANCEY made several objections to the Bill.

Mr. WATERS said that while some Conservatives view this institution in a non-partisan light, others were disposed to regard it as an institution which Reformers were running on political grounds. If anything could be done to remove that feeling it would be a great step in advance. He was therefore glad to learn that the board was to be selected from members of both political parties, and he hoped that any Conservatives who were appointed would cheerfully act. He was not finding any particular fault with the College, but he had no doubt there was room for improvement, and that those in authority would be benefitted by the experience and advice of practical men.

Hon. JAMES YOUNG said that the member for Peterboro' and some of his friends in Opposition always took the most pessimistic view of all matters connected with the College. One member appeared to think that the College should be conducted as a commercial institution, and that, while giving instruction to 100 students, it should at the same time be run at a profit. This proposition only needed to be stated in order to show its utter absurdity. The establishment of the Board was not as some hon. gentlemen appeared to think, an evidence that something was wrong with the affairs of the College. It was to be expected that those controlling the institution would profit by the experience which they gained from year to year, and the appointment of the Board was one of those things which experience suggested. He believed it would be found that the Government could not shield itself behind the Advisory Board, but that it would be held responsible, not only for its own acts, but for the acts of the Board. Then hon. gentlemen opposite expressed great fears lest the Board should be all composed of members of one party. No better evidence of extreme partizanship could be found than the making of such a charge after the express declaration of the treasurer that gentlemen of both political parties would be appointed. One great benefit which they expected the College to confer was this—that its students going out to various parts of the Province would disseminate

## THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAD ACQUIRED.

In this view it was important that the students should come from all sections of the Province, and this was the object aimed at in allowing each county council to nominate a student. He believed that the Bill would have the effect of making the college still more useful to the farmer's interests of this