

country.

MR. BALLANTYNE said that the idea of appointing a board of practical agriculturists was an excellent one. It must often happen that the gentleman filling the office of Minister of Agriculture was not a practical agriculturist. The Ministers were not expected to be practical experts in every department over which they exercised a general supervision. He did not doubt that Conservatives and Reformers would be able to work in harmony on the board. He hoped that special attention would be paid to the subject, dairying. Experiments might be made at the farm, and questions solved which would be of the greatest importance to

DAIRYMEN THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

He was not at all afraid of what was called "high farming," or of too much value being attached to improved methods. He believed most farms were gradually being lost by slow farming. The Agricultural College ought to be able to demonstrate the value of high feeding from a dairying standpoint. He did not approve of the proposals that the County Councils should each nominate a student to be instructed free of charge. The class of young men whom they wanted would not accept aid given in that way, and the plan would lead to wire-pulling and scheming. He again impressed upon the House the importance of paying attention to the dairying interest.

Mr. WILMOT said he did not think the appointment of the advisory board would satisfy the public. He thought there should be a practical farmer at the head of the department.

Mr. LAIDLAW said that after ten years' trial the judgment of the farmers was that the College should be a permanent institution. It was absurd to expect a profit from it. Did any one expect to receive profits from our Common Schools or our University? But they did expect that the College would confer a great benefit on the farming class of this country, and thus expectation had been fulfilled. No doubt changes were necessary, and he expected great benefit would accrue from the appointment of the Board. He was opposed to the system of County Councils nominating students.

Mr. DRURY said he was surprised to hear the statement that free tuition would make a student a pauper. Were our University students who accepted scholarships branded as paupers? County Councils would be likely to single out young men of promise; and the system would tend to make the institution known throughout the Province. He had been surprised to hear the statement that the farmers did not read the reports; he had never had any trouble in disposing of the copies with which he was supplied. He was afraid there was a disposition to criticize the College in a carping and partisan spirit. Nobody ever complained of the expenditure on Osgoode Hall; but the only institution which was for the benefit of the farmers seemed to be singled out for criticism. He was quite ready to agree that the student should see work done at the Farm in the way that he would have to do it himself. He did not believe that the appointment of the Board would divest the Government of any responsibility, but he thought the Board should have large discretionary powers.

Mr. WOOD said the attempt to secure the selection of young men by County Councils would be unsatisfactory. The persons selected would not belong to the most worthy, or the best suited to receive instruction, but the appointment would be made the occasion of a great deal of wire-pulling. He was, however, entirely in sympathy with the establishment of an Advisory Board.

Mr. GRAHAM said he thought the appointment of an Advisory Board was a step in the right direction. He believed that the farm might be made more productive. (Opposition applause.)

Mr. WHITE announced himself as being against the Bill entirely. It would largely increase the expenditure, thus the Institution would be further away than ever from being self-supporting.

Mr. CASCADEN regretted that every Act of the Government should be distorted by political bias, and even this laudable proposition had met the same fate. He was opposed to the establishment of scholarships to be subject to the County Councils' nomination.

Mr. ROBILLARD told a story, the point of which was that if he were convinced that a son of his would "go to the devil anyhow," then he would send him to the Agricultural College. (Hon. gentlemen said hear, hear.) All our farms might be made more productive. (Applause.)

Mr. PRESTON complained of the items in the Public Accounts, relating to the Agricultural College being spread over too many departments. While not a farmer, he represented a farming constituency, and the farmers generally were in favour of the Institution. It was doing a good work, and the reports were sought for very eagerly by his constituency, and many had admitted

that they derived great benefit from the experiments recorded there. He was quite opposed to the clause giving County Councils the nominations of students, though he was certain that young men who had received the benefits of the institution would be of benefit to a community.

Mr. MCKAY disclaimed all intention of being hostile to the College. He thought that if the Advisory Board were elected from each district so as to be entirely free from the influence of the Government it would place a different aspect on the question. He was also opposed to the appointment of students by the County Councils.

Mr. MURRAY was satisfied that the information afforded the country by the College was of very great benefit. The proposal to give County Councils this power might by some be considered in the light of charity, and therefore a humiliating thing. On the other hand, it might be considered creditable to have the distinction conferred.

Mr. SNYDER believed in practice rather than theory, and thought that the move was one in the right direction. He thought it would be a benefit if the farming part of the College were done away with and experiments only conducted. Take it all in all, he was very doubtful whether what was anticipated from the farm would be realized. Take manufacturers for instance. They were plunged into business without such technical education as the College gave farmers, and yet he thought they had succeeded about as well as farmers. He was in favour of the provisions of the Bill having a trial.

Mr. LEES, while admitting the value of the College, suggested that the report should be got up differently, and that a certain portion of the farm should be farmed for profit. He agreed with the appointment of an Advisory Board and the proposals to send students to the College. He thought the young men would look on it as an honour. He paid a great tribute to the value of the Agricultural Commission report.

Mr. MCKENZIE thought greater proof than ever had been given that the opponents of the Government were influenced by political motives. The Opposition appeared to be very much afraid of politicians. The suggestion of the Opposition would, if carried out, result in the formation of a strange Government. He quite agreed with the appointment of an Advisory Board, and thought that the students recommended by the country would be still independent and lose nothing by the appointment. Students passing time there returning to their homes would be the best possible advertisement for the College. He was in favour of the Bill.

Hon. A. M. ROSS, in reply, regretted that the proposal had not been received in the fair and non-partisan spirit which he had hoped, and that advantage had been taken of the Bill to launch out into a general criticism of the Agricultural College. The Opposition members of the House had taken advantage of the proposal to criticize the whole management of the Institution in an adverse spirit, with a view of belittling it in order to create feeling against the farm throughout the country. This has been the case ever since the College was established. The objection has been made that the Bill gives no power to the Board. These powers will be provided and laid down by Order in Council and regulations. We don't propose that the Board shall have absolute powers. The responsibility must rest on the Government. It is a Government institution, and so long as this House votes money for its maintenance the House and the country will hold the Government responsible for the management. The Commissioner for Agriculture will be responsible if he follows the advice of the Board, and if he does not he will have no one to place the responsibility on, while the Board will always be able to set themselves right before the country if their advice is not followed. The proposal has been made to make the Council of the Agricultural and Arts Institution the Advisory Board. That Council is

FAR TOO LARGE,

and there are many members on it who are not practical farmers. There also is at times a great deal of wire-pulling used to get elected. I am quite satisfied that the Board when appointed will commend itself to the country. The objection has been made that we propose to confine the nominations to the sons of farmers. Now, one of the greatest objections to the institution has been that the students were not all sons of farmers, and the students themselves at their association have passed a resolution that no more students be admitted unless they have had two years' practical experience on a farm.

Mr. MEREDITH—Suppose all the counties do not make nominations, will the vacancies be kept open in the College?

Hon. A. M. ROSS—Certainly not. There will be no vacancies. The College is not filled to its utmost capacity, and if we find that more accommodation is needed, it will