

Fifth Parliament --- Third Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 24.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Hon. T. B. Pardee presented the sixth report of the Railways.

Mr. Awrey presented the fifth report of the Committee on Private Bills.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read the first time:—

Mr. Rayside—To amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. McLaughlin—To amend the Act respecting snow fences.

Mr. White—To amend the County Courts Act.

Mr. White—To amend the Surrogate Courts Act.

Mr. White—To amend the Act respecting the Courts of Queen's and Bench Common Pleas.

Hon. O. Mowat—An Act to confirm titles where the Land Titles Act is not in force.

FURTHER AMENDED.

Mr. DRURY moved that the order for the third reading be discharged and the Bill referred back for certain amendments to the preamble. This was assented to and the Bill amended.

NO APPEAL.

Mr. MEREDITH asked whether the decision of the Hon. Mr. Justice Proudfoot, in the case of the Petition of Right filed by Peter Alexander McArthur, and another, is intended to be, or has been, acquiesced in as a correct determination as to the legal rights of applicants for timber limits, or whether it is intended to appeal from such decision.

Hon. O. MOWAT—It is not the intention to appeal.

PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN moved for a return, showing the cost incurred by the Province in maintaining its rights to the disputed Territory, after the finding of the award of the arbitrators; also the cost incurred in each case of defending the constitutional rights of the Province against the encroachments of the Dominion Government, together with the total cost. Carried.

THE PROVINCIAL SHOW.

Mr. AWREY moved for a return showing for each of the years 1883, 1884, and 1885, all sums of money received by the Agricultural and Arts Association, the amount expended in prizes at the annual exhibitions, cost of management of said exhibitions, distinguishing between salaries and other disbursements; salaries paid officials of said associations; and other disbursements made by the said Association; balance sheet for each year's transactions, showing profit or loss, as the case may be. He said there was an impression abroad in the West, that a part of the duties of the Agricultural and Arts Association might cease. While admitting the value of the Provincial Fair to agriculturists in the past thirty years, he thought the institution had outlived its usefulness. The branches of the Association such as the registering of stock, the controlling of ploughing matches, and their educational influence were all very well. The management of the Provincial Show had not been economical. For instance, last year at London, where they always have a good Western Fair, and a successful one, the result was that with an income of \$34,000, including grants and gate money, they had a deficit of \$1,600. The Industrial Exhibition at Toronto was a great success, and considered the one great show of the Province, and now, with past experience of it at the leading cities, the Provincial Show must be held in some small place where it could not pay. He had seen at Hamilton and London just as good stock as was shown at the Provincial Show. He had no sympathy with those who said that Toronto was monopolizing all that was good in the Province, but if they had a Provincial Show it must be held only once in five years. A charge had been made that when the Exhibition was held at London, Ottawa, etc., the directors brought workmen from other parts of the Province wherever directors had friends, and thus the expense was increased. He had distinguished between the amount for prizes and management, for the reason that there was an impression abroad that the amount for prizes was small and that for management large.

Mr. DRURY said he thought that the member for South Wentworth would find

that the farmers had a very clear idea of the amount that was spent in salaries and the amount that was spent in prizes. If he would take the trouble to look up prize lists he would find that they amounted to between \$23,000 and \$25,000. It was true that employees were brought from various parts of the Province, but they were engaged in positions of trust and responsibility, and it would have been unwise and unsafe to rely upon men who might be picked up in various places where the Exhibition was held. The management did not fear any scrutiny into the financial affairs of the Association. They had been conducted in a proper business-like way, and the servants of the Association were men who could command anywhere else salaries as high as they received from the Association. The London Exhibition had been referred to as a failure. It was true that owing to wet weather its financial success was not great, although he thought they would have \$2,000 in the bank after paying all claims. But it was certainly a success as an Exhibition. The unanimous opinion was that the show of stock at London was the finest ever seen in the country. It was a thoroughly representative Exhibition which did credit to the Province of Ontario. He had no personal interest in the Exhibition except as a farmer, but he and the other members of the Council desired to do their duty to the farmers of this country. At the annual meetings of delegates appointed by the electoral district societies, the question had repeatedly been submitted, whether the Provincial Exhibition should be continued, and in every instance the opinion was unmistakably in favour of its continuance. They were not to be guided by the opinions of those who represented cities which desired to hold independent exhibitions. He gave every credit to the excellent management of the Toronto Industrial Association, but he was very doubtful whether the system of relying upon horse-racing and side shows of various kinds would produce permanent success. It had failed in the United States. He did not say that it was not a perfectly fair and proper thing for the Toronto Association to do as they were doing. But he believed there had been expressions of disapproval of the course of

SACRIFICING THE EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

of the exhibition to amusement. The Agricultural and Arts Association had certainly not erred so much in this respect. They could have made nearly a thousand dollars during one Fair by making arrangements with mountebanks, etc.; but they had passed a resolution against such a policy. They had speeded in the ring, but gave no prizes for horseracing. He believed that four-fifths of the solid farmers would vote for the continuance of the Provincial Exhibition. (Cries of "Hear," and "No.") He believed the Fair at Kingston was of material advantage to the people of Eastern Ontario, and was the means of introducing improved cattle and new agricultural machinery to the farmers of that district. Difficulties might arise from the Association not being able to secure proper accommodation. It might be a question whether, if they could not obtain entrance to cities having proper accommodation, the holding of the Exhibition should be suspended, but on no other ground should it be contemplated. (Loud applause.)

Mr. GRAY said that the Provincial Exhibition in the past had performed a duty, but had ceased to be of any use, and the money would be better spent if divided among the Agricultural Societies.

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) agreed with the remarks made by the member for East Simcoe. The extra attractions which were coming into fashion at fairs did not enhance their value; people went away from them

NO WISER THAN THEY CAME.

The object of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition was principally to draw a crowd and to make money. It would be a great mistake to withdraw the grant from the Provincial Exhibition.

Mr. WILMOT said that the Toronto Exhibition was a good one, but at London they had better stock and a better class of people. (Laughter and applause.) He was strongly opposed to cutting off the grant for the Provincial Fair.

A SUCCESSFUL SHOW.

Mr. WATERS had no objection to the motion, but he thought it was not brought forward so much from a desire for information as to have a right royal drive at the Provincial Show. The mover had said that the London show was a failure, but viewed from a mechanical, farmer's, or art standpoint the show was one of the finest ever held in the Dominion of Canada. (Applause.) It had been called a local show, but the fact that exhibitors were there from all parts of Canada disproved this. Do away with the Provincial Show and there would not remain in Ontario a large show managed exclusively by agriculturists. The shows held in the cities