

Fifth Parliament --- Third Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TUESDAY, March 9.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

REPORTS.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) presented the report of the Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. C. F. FRASER presented the first report of the Municipal Committee.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read the first time:—

Mr. Harcourt—To amend the Act respecting Joint Stock Companies for the construction of roads, and other purposes.

Mr. Hart—To amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Balfour—To amend the Act respecting line fences.

DID NOT COMMIT.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that a few days ago his attention had been called to a case where an Algoma magistrate had committed his own wife to gaol. He then stated that he remembered something of it, and he had since searched the matter up. It appears that he saw the statement in a newspaper, and had the Deputy Attorney-General enquire into it. This had been done, but it had been found that no such thing had happened.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

On the third reading of the Bill to amend the Act respecting the Agricultural College,

Mr. MERRICK moved an amendment in effect providing that all applicants be admitted free of entrance and tuition fees, provided they had devoted at least the twelve months immediately preceding their application to actual farm work. The amendment further proposed, in case the applications were greater than the accommodation, means of deciding preference.

Hon. A. M. ROSS pointed out that the Government, having proposed to admit students free in certain cases, the hon. gentleman evidently was determined to go one better. There had been attacks made upon the Government for the cost of the College over the revenue, and yet it was proposed to take away the revenue arising from fees. The Government thought it best to allow the present Bill to go into action, and if the provisions were found to work well, then the Government would liberally consider an extension.

Mr. CARNEGIE supported the amendment, as it placed all classes on a level, and if a mechanic's son wanted to go to the College, and gave an earnest of his desire by going on a farm for twelve months, he could get free tuition. Then again, in casting off the fees, they could only lose \$4,000.

Hon. C. F. FRASER pointed out that the amendment came just at a time when this liberal measure was before the House, when the Government was proposing to establish an Advisory Board of practical farmers, yet the hon. gentleman for the first time proposed to go a little further. He was in favour of the proposal of the hon. Treasurer, and thought that the present Bill should have a trial, as, if they accepted the amendment and it were adopted, it would be difficult to go back to the present state of things should it be necessary.

Mr. CREIGHTON supported the amendment.

Mr. YOUNG pointed out that generally the Opposition considered a small sum in connection with the College a serious matter, and yet they now proposed to take away \$4,000 of revenue. The retention of the fee would be the best means of a young man showing his interest in farming.

The amendment was lost "on division."

Mr. PRESTON moved that one member of the Advisory Board be nominated by the Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said the Government had always been held responsible for the conduct of the College. They proposed to retain the responsibility, and did not intend to make the Agricultural and Arts Association a screen.

The amendment was lost "on division."

Mr. ROBILLARD asked how it would affect united counties.

Hon. A. M. ROSS replied that there should be one student nominated from each county.

Mr. MEREDITH asked what the term of office of the Board would be. The Bill was apparently silent on this point.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said that matter would be considered.

The debate was then adjourned.

THIRD READING.

Mr. DRURY moved the third reading of the Bill respecting the village of Beeton.

Carried.