

Love Feb 14th am

Middlesex North—James Shibley.
Middlesex West—John McPherson.
Norfolk North—J Freeman, M PP, and J F Cohoe.
Norfolk South—Wm Morgan, M PP.
Northumberland East—J B Boyce and R Halbeck.
Northumberland West—S Renser and R Culis.
Ontario North—J J Gould, M PP, B S Davidson and Wm Thomson.
Oxford South—L B Swarton.
Parry Sound—S Armstrong, M PP.
Peel—R Blain, J Pickering and S J Pearson.
Peterborough—Chas O'Reilly, Henry Humphries and Mr Blezard, M PP.
Prescott—Mr Evanturel, M PP.
Prince Edward—Mr Sprague, M PP.
Renfrew North—J Crozier.
Simcoe West—J J Brown and J Forsyth.
Victoria North—Mr Fell, M PP.
Victoria South—Mr Cruess, M PP.
Waterloo North—J M Slaeher and George Moore.
Waterloo South—S D Ferguson, Andrew Elliott, George Buchanan and R Blain.
Wellington Centre—Matthew Anderson, David Foote and David Rae.
Wentworth North—W H Brooking.
Wentworth South—R B Benseley.
York East—G B Smith, M PP.

The first speaker to address the Ministers in behalf of the purport of the resolution was Mr. John Dawson, of Algoma. He maintained that it was impossible to carry on Agricultural Societies in his district without further aid, and claimed that it was only fair to the farmers that the Government should distribute amongst them a fair share of the revenue received from Crown lands and minerals. He deprecated the centralisation of agricultural exhibitions. The young men of rural districts would be stimulated in their work by efficient electoral districts

shows, and, in conclusion, he hoped that the Government would give the \$20,000 grant asked for by so large and representative a body of men.

Mr. Purser, of West Northumberland, also stated that the Societies were crippled financially, but at the same time he wished it to be understood that in asking for the \$20,000 additional grant the deputation did not question the policy of giving three-fifths of the present Government grant to township shows. Farmers, he said, have to retrench in their expenditure, and this accounts in a large measure for the falling off in the gate receipts at many of the Electoral Districts Societies exhibitions. The additional grant would enable the Directors to counteract present disadvantages.

Messrs. Barker, West Brant; J. J. Brown, West Simcoe, and Moore, South Waterloo, made a few observations on the same lines, urging strongly on the Minister of Agriculture the necessities of their Societies. The Hon. Mr. Drury, in reply, said that when he received a letter some weeks ago from Mr. Damude in respect to an additional grant to the Electoral Societies, and that a deputation would wait on him during the session, he did not expect to see such a body of representative men as stood before him. He ventured to say that it was the largest body of farmers that had waited on the Government for years. He was pleased that farmers are following in the footsteps of all others in the Province who want the Government's assistance. This is as it should be. He had hoped that in the discussion something would have been said by the speakers touching a proposition made to the Government, to the effect that they should make a grant to Central Associations. He also expected to hear an expression of opinion regarding the usefulness of Township Shows. These questions are brought to the attention of the Government from time to time, but the spokesmen of the deputation did not refer to them. The Minister of Agriculture went on then to say that the Government had not the control of the \$10,000 formerly given to the Provincial Exhibition. The Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association want \$6,000 this year, and the grant is still in their hands for conducting work in connection with agriculture. The proposition of the deputation was a large one, and owing to the advanced state of the session, and that the estimates were prepared, he could not hold out any hope that anything would be done this year. Still he would place the representations made before his colleagues, when they would receive every consideration.

The deputation then withdrew.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, received a deputation from the Toronto Public School Board before the House met, comprising the following members:—F Somers (Chairman), R S Baird, A Middleton, T A Hastings and W B McMurrich, solicitor of the Board. They urged the passage of an Act giving School Boards the power of providing pupils with school books free of charge. The Minister stated that he was favorable to the principle of such legislation, and would bring the matter before the Government at the earliest possible moment.