

THE ASSEMBLY.

University Grant Before the House.

RESOLUTIONS PASS IN COMMITTEE.

Eloquent Pleas for the State Institution.

THE CANADIAN FLAG HAS AN INNING.

Large Deputation Before the Minister of Education - Detailed Statement of the University Finances-Liquor License Report - Notes.

February 20, 1890.

The House considered the University resolutions to-day. The motion to go into Committee of Supply was finally carried unanimously, though not without a good deal of debate, and not without some murmuring. The leader of the Opposition gave the resolutions his very heartiest support, but unfortunately he was not in his seat when the question opened up, and some of his party broke away under the leadership of Mr. Creighton, who also went with the Government almost without a murmur. Mr. A. F. Wood and Mr. Ciancy, both of whom, apparently, are jealous of the Emperor's post of honor, were the chief dissentients, and they got some help from Mr. Balfour and Mr. Caldwell. An explanation from the University virtually removed the objections preferred, and there was happily no division at this stage of the proceedings, whatever may happen later. The House sat until six o'clock.

FIRST READINGS.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time :-

To amend the County Court Act—Mr. Oathrie.

To amend the Mechanics' Lien Act—Mr. Garson.

To confer upon the Chatham Waterworks Co. power to borrow \$150,000—Mr. Ferguson.

To incorporate the Huron & Ontario Railway Co.—Hon. A. M. Ross.

An Act respecting the City of London—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Jurors Act—Mr. H. E. Clarke.

UNIVERSITY RESOLUTIONS.

The Hon. Minister of Education, in moving the House into Committee of Supply to consider the University resolutions, made an address of about an hour in length, covering the case very fully, and plainly putting before the House the financial standing of the University and its high standard in an educational sense. Mr. Ross said he needed hardly to have to inform the House of the recent calamity by which the Provincial University had met with so great a loss. It was with sorrow and regret that he had occasion to refer to the matter, but it was a satisfaction to know that it was a calamity in which the University authorities had the sympathy of the people of the Province and, as he believed, of the members of the House. He referred to the sympathy so universally expressed by the sister Universities of the Province, the country, the Continent, and in the case of one or two of the greater institutions from over the seas. The calamity, he said, had occurred at a particularly inopportune time. It had just entered upon a further era of extension and development. Only a few years ago, by order of the Legislature, its doors were thrown open to women. The attendance of women at the first session was but four. In four years that number had increased to 53. The hon. gentleman touched lightly also on the further development of the University by the Act of 1887, enabling it to federate with other Universities. Then came the establishment of the Faculties of Law and Medicine, and the Department of Political Science, and the affiliation of the Agricultural College and the School of Dentistry, by means of all of which the institution had been given great prominence in the Province, and it has come to be recognised as one of the most advanced Universities of the present time. In 1829 again the School of Science had been affiliated and the Biological Department of the University opened. At the time of the fire there were 800 students in the different faculties, which number had grown from four in less than forty years. In 1888-9 the number of students in arts was 492, in medicine 258, a total of 750. Besides this attendance the general disposition on the part of the Province to avail itself of the advantages of the University was evidenced by the fact that there were now in attendance at the High Schools 1,306. The hon. gentleman briefly traced the growth of the Province during the last forty years, mentioning the more than doubling of its population during that time, the equal growth of the Dominion, the vast extension of its railway system, etc. High Schools had increased from 64 in 1853 to 120 in 1889; the pupils from 4,287 to 17,742, and the teachers from 99 to 419; and Public Schools

had risen in numbers from 3,244 in 1853 to 5,569 in 1889; pupils from 277,992 to 495,323, and teachers from 3,539 to 7,796. He showed how the University had contrived to keep pace with all this progress, and had contributed to the educational portion of it. The influence of the University extended itself to all branches of the educational scheme of the Province. Its graduates were everywhere, in all professions and almost all callings. It had stimulated mental activity in every direction, with great advantage to the progress of literature, the eloquence of our clergy, the acuteness of our lawyers, the skill of our physicians, and the thoroughness and ability of our legislators.

Then the hon. gentleman came to consider the extent of the calamity. The loss on the structure proper amounted to \$250,000. Of this sum \$90,000 was covered by insurance. The loss on the library, above insurance, was \$100,000. The obligations of the University in connection with the Biological Department was \$35,000; in connection with the new Museum, \$65,000, and in connection with the Convocation Hall, \$100,000; a total of \$460,000. This was a very large sum. The House was asked to make good the loss on the building itself by voting \$160,000 to the rebuilding thereof. That was the only loss which the House was asked to make good. The other loss would have to be provided for either out of its surplus revenues, if it should have any, or by the generosity of the people of the Province. Already liberal donations were announced, and doubtless they would be followed by others from the public at large, from the Corporation of Toronto or from other sources. It could not be taken from the University's annual earnings, for its annual endowment and revenues from fees and otherwise were only just sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure of the institution. Then coming to the library, the Hon. Minister commented upon the importance to the University and to every educational institution of excellence being secured in this respect. This was everywhere recognised. The library of the University of Toronto contained 33,000 volumes, and was valued at \$150,000. Comparison of the University in this respect with other Universities would show how necessary it was that the library should be restored to at least its original value. Yale, for instance, had a library of 188,000 volumes; Harvard, of 325,793; Dartmouth College, 68,000; New Jersey University, 85,500; Cornell, 96,500; Columbia, 93,144; University of Pennsylvania, 60,000, and Ann Arbor 66,942.

First and strongest, perhaps, of the reasons, said Mr. Ross, why the Legislature should come to the aid of the University was that such action would be in line with the treatment of the institution by the Legislature from the first, and that it would simply result in the restoration of the status which it was originally intended the University should occupy in the Province. He referred to the original grant in 1793 of 467,675 acres made by King George III., on petition of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. Of this grant 170,719 acres were in some way alienated by the neglect of the authorities of those days, and sold for private purposes. As compensation for this, in 1828 the Legislature made another grant of 272,600 acres to the institution. Then again in 1887, continued Mr. Ross, it was considered that, as part of the scheme of federation, the University should receive additional aid and the site of Upper Canada College was transferred to its endowment, which was probably worth about half a million of dollars.

Those, pointed out Mr. Ross, were admirable precedents for aid being extended the University by the Legislature. He then glanced at the aid given by State Legislatures to Colleges and Universities in the United States, which ran from an annual grant of \$132,750 in Nebraska and \$82,000 in California to \$23,000 in Indiana.

Then Mr. Ross showed how much it would be to the public interest to grant this money. It was the only means whereby the University could be enabled to extend its various faculties as occasion demanded. If no help was granted it would be crippled. The loss of income would be equal to \$9,600 a year, the value of the annual salaries of three professors. Would the House see the University lose this income—these three professors? He thought not, and pointed to the case of Johns Hopkins, where the people of Baltimore had come to the relief of the institution when its funds had been badly invested. So ought the people of the Province come to the aid of the Provincial University.

Mr. Ross proceeded to show the necessity the University is under, even in its normal

condition, of extension in many of its departments. As compared with most of the American Universities it is working shorthanded in classics, modern languages, Oriental languages, mineralogy and geology, logic and metaphysics, and in the various sub-departments of political science. In running over this list and giving the comparisons with other institutions, Mr. Ross commented on the almost universally admitted value of a thorough classical education in a University, on the great practical utility of skill in modern languages, on the obligation the authorities are under to the affiliated Colleges with respect to Oriental languages, particularly Hebrew, and so on. He complimented the leader of the Opposition and the other gentlemen who act as honorary lecturers on the assistance they render the authorities in this respect, causing the University to feel less keenly the insufficiency of its revenue.

Another reason for the granting of the aid was that it was necessary for the fulfilment of the purposes of federation. It was true that only Victoria seemed likely to intend availing itself of the advantages of this scheme—it was not, perhaps, absolutely certain that Victoria would do so, but it would be well to afford Victoria any justification of a complaint that the University had in any respect fallen behind since the decision of the General Conference.

Finally, the Province at large should aid because it was a Provincial institution. It was called into existence by the Provincial Legislature, had since then been twice aided by the Legislature, and it represented the highest type of our national education.

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