

Mr. Hardy replied in the negative, but maintained that the Dominion's action had seriously complicated affairs in the territory.

Mr. Meredith continued by remarking that the Provincial Government was wholly responsible for the affair, which Mr. Hardy admitted. Mr. Meredith then proceeded to make a general attack on the bookkeeping system of the Government, which he declared was such that infinitely larger defalcations might be committed, in the Department of the Crown Lands especially, and remain undiscovered for years. In fact, he said, connivance on the part of a few of the officials of that Department would enable such officials to rob the Province of enormous sums.

Hon. Mr. Ross (Huron) explained briefly to the House the system of Provincial checking and auditing, which he insisted was fully sufficient to prevent such disasters as Mr. Meredith suggested.

Mr. Marter reiterated his statement that Dulmage was appointed as a reward for political services. He charged that Dulmage was very irregular in his habits for fifteen years. The member for Muskoka argued and spoke as if the Government were responsible for, not having the gift of prescience.

Mr. Connee denied that Dulmage bore the character given him by Mr. Marter. His honesty was never questioned by those who knew him intimately, and so far as engaging in politics, Dulmage never even cast a vote in Eastern Algoma. His irregular habits had commenced but a very few years ago.

Mr. Clancy censured the Government for permitting Dulmage to go on collecting money without authority.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) thought the House ought to show more of the Provincial system of auditing than it did. The auditor was the appointee of the House, and the House should be in possession of information as to what he did.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said it was impossible to devise a system that would entirely remove the necessity of reposing confidence in somebody. It could not be done. He himself was doing his best now to devise a system of checks that should be effective, but he could not devise any as effective as he wished they might be.

Hon. Mr. Ross (Huron) said that there was a recognised way of securing information on the auditing system of the Government. Mr. Wood was himself a member of the Public Accounts Committee and he had but to make the request to have the auditor come before the Committee and make a full explanation. In fact such an explanation was made a couple of years ago. The motion finally passed without opposition, and, it being by this time six o'clock, the House rose.

PRIVATE BILLS.

After the six o'clock adjournment the House gave up the first half hour of the sitting to private bills. The following bills passed the Committee of the whole House and were reported, to be read a third time to-morrow:—

Respecting the City of Belleville—Mr. Ostrom.

To incorporate the Town of Little Current—Mr. Lyon.

To amend the Act incorporating the Village of Tilbury Centre—Mr. Balfour.

SECOND READINGS.

The following bills received their second reading:—

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Orillia—Mr. Drury.

Respecting By-law 163 of the Village of Norwich—Mr. McKay.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Brampton—Mr. Chisholm.

Respecting the Hamilton Gas Light Company—Mr. Awrey.

To enable the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas to issue Debentures for Waterworks—Mr. Ingram.

Respecting certain lands vested in the Rector of Christ Church, Hamilton—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

Respecting St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa—Mr. Bronson.

To incorporate the Town of North Toronto—Mr. Gilmour.

Respecting the New York Life Insurance Company—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

To enable the Corporation of the City of Ottawa to issue Debentures for waterworks purposes—Mr. Bronson.

To enable the Corporation of the City of Ottawa to issue debentures to the amount of \$50,000—Mr. Bronson.

Respecting the Hamilton Patriotic Volunteer Fund—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

MODEL FARMS.

Mr. Lees moved the following resolution:— That the establishing of well-conducted Provincial model farms is of great advantage to the farming interests of the country, and this House desires to draw the attention of the Government to the advisability of such a Model Farm in the eastern section of the Province, so that the farming community of that part of the Province may have the same benefit as those residing in the western part.

In support of his motion Mr. Lees maintained that the Guelph Agricultural College gave a stimulus to agriculture of all kinds in the Province. There might be room for differences of opinion as to its management, but there could be none as to its influence for good. It was only fair that the eastern part of the Province should be afforded the advantages derived by farmers in the west who lived in close proximity to the Guelph Model Farm. He hoped to hear an expression of opinion on the question from the farmers of the House.

Mr. Connee had no doubt that any measure having for its object to increase the receipts of farmers should receive the consideration of the House. There was room for another Model Farm in Western Ontario, and that was in Algoma. He hoped, if the Government contemplated the establishment of more Model Farms, Algoma's claims would not be overlooked.

Mr. Armstrong set forth the claims of Parry Sound, maintaining that it was eminently suitable for a Model Farm.

Then up rose Mr. Fell and put in a good word for Victoria, and the House laughed, but the speaker was in earnest.

Mr. Blyth, after giving the Minister of Agriculture a pointer, as he called it, on conducting a Model Farm, said that he was in favour of the resolution on certain conditions. Mr. Blyth then took his hands out of his pockets and sat down.

Mr. Sprague thought that if a Model Farm were to be established in Eastern Ontario it ought to be in the Bay of Quinte District.

Mr. Drury said that evening was the happiest he had ever spent in the House. He remembered the time when an attempt was made to defeat the Government simply because of its establishment and conduct of the Model Farm at Guelph. Now, the "seasible and solid" men on both sides of the House said not a word in opposition to the Model Farm, but rather wanted them all over. If a Model Farm were run on proper principles, and so that it might do good, it could not be expected to pay expenses, and he thought the day was gone by when it was to be discussed on such a basis. The Dominion Experimental Farm did not pay expenses. He thought it would be gratifying to the House to see that the Government was this year only asking for a grant of \$3,000, in addition to the receipts of the Farm, to carry on the work of the 550 acres connected with the Guelph Farm. Whether it could ever be made to pay entirely or not he could not say. He thought it improbable. Regarding similar establishments in the United States, he pointed out that in only two States of the Union was there more than one of such institutions. The exceptions were Georgia and Mississippi, and in these States the bulk of the work was done in one of the institutions. The policy there evidently was to concentrate the grant entirely on one institution. He pointed out, too, that the Guelph Farm was not crowded, and according to present indications would not be so for some time to come. He would not undertake to say that the time might not come when more of such institutions might not be advisable. At present, of course, the people in the eastern portion of the Province had the advantage of the Dominion Experimental Farm. He was quite sure that if the farming community of the country should in the near future consider an extension of the Model Farms necessary to their interests, the House would deal liberally with them. The hon. gentleman congratulated the House on the increased importance that was being attached to scientific farming. He had always been a friend of the application of science to agriculture to the furthest extent practicable. It was the only system under which farming in Canada could be made profitable. That was why he had always believed in the Guelph Model Farm, and that was why he was glad to see the House had come to approve of the Farm.

Mr. Clancy said the Minister of Agriculture had no room for so much self-congratulation. The Farm was not such a great success. It had not succeeded in reaching the masses at all. It was exercising very little influence on the farming community generally, and any progress the farmers of Ontario had made was irrespective of the Farm, and simply by reason of their own common sense and observation. Mr. Clancy then taunted the Minister of Agriculture with having introduced a porcupine into the College last year and charged it to the Province.

"Where did you see that?" asked Mr. Drury.

"In the public accounts," said Mr. Clancy.

"It's pitchfork, not porcupine," said Mr. Drury, amid general laughter.

Mr. Metcalfe in his usual strain was understood to advocate the establishment of a Model Farm for the eastern part of the Province, and the payment of more attention to the raising of good horses in the Province.

Mr. Lees withdrew his resolution, and in doing so said he questioned whether it was wise to concentrate the efforts and attention of the Government entirely to one Model Farm. He thought it might be better to establish Farms on different principles in different parts of the Province. He admitted that the Farm at Guelph was well managed, though at the same time he thought it deficient in some respects.

Mr. Cruess thought there was a time when the College and Farm at Guelph were ill-conducted, but he thought there could be no complaint as to its management by the present Minister of Agriculture, who, he thought, was the right man in the right place. He had confidence in him, and he did not like to hear men who were half-farmers getting up and condemning the institution at Guelph.

Mr. Clancy blushed a good deal at this unexpected attack from his own side of the House, but said nothing.

Mr. Meredith indignantly protested against the references made by the Minister of Agriculture to the manner in which the Experimental Farm is conducted by the Ottawa Government. Whatever credit was due to the Ontario Model Farm, it must be remembered that it was established by the Government of John Sandfield Macdonald. He ventured to say that to the just criticisms of the Opposition was due the good condition in which the farm now was. It was in a deplorable condition under the Hon. Archibald McKellar, and the evils were removed at the instance of gentlemen on his side of the House. They were all proud of the success of the Farm, but it would be a mistake not to point out the weak points in its management. It was right that the attention of the country should be drawn to the fact that it was not as largely patronised as it ought.

Hon. Mr. Drury spoke of the danger of the criticisms of some hon. gentlemen causing a loss of confidence in the institution. At the same time he did not object to criticisms that were fair and reasonable and he was ready to meet them.

Mr. Clancy said he could go into any High School and find more pupils than were to be found at the Guelph Agricultural College, and he insisted that it was the feeling of the farmers generally that they had received far less benefit than they had a right to expect from the College.

Hon. A. M. Ross was glad to hear the praise bestowed on the Farm, but he felt that the Minister of Agriculture was justified in resenting the unjust criticisms of some of the Opposition. These criticisms were for years directed towards showing that the Farm was not a self-sustaining institution. He was right in drawing attention to the methods adopted by the Federal Minister of Agriculture in making the selection of sites for additional Farms useful for advancing the interests of his party. That was not done by Mr. Drury, although it might be an easy matter for him to send out surveyors and inspectors, to make different sections of the Province believe that he intended to establish Model Farms in their midst. He hoped that in future, when discussions of agriculture would come up in the House, there would be less partisanship displayed by hon. gentlemen opposite.