

charge. This he thought would stimulate immediate development and would meet the objections of those who were opposed to the royalty. He concluded his speech by declaring that he would not by any word assist in the passage of a bill which would embarrass the important industry; he was satisfied that the measure could not have the effect the hon. member for West Algoma had predicted. Feeling as he did about the question, he would support the general terms of the bill.

#### Speeches Against the Royalty.

Mr. Caldwell, North Lanark's representative, is a quiet-mannered speaker whose arguments are logically arranged and presented in lucid language. In discussing the proposed regulations he showed familiarity with the interest with which they dealt. In his view, it would be by actual work and by the export of minerals that the Province would get the largest and quickest returns of profit from its mining lands.

Mr. A. F. Campbell, the representative of East Algoma, supported Mr. Connice's position in opposition to the bill. His speech was a carefully-prepared review of what he conceived to be the requirements of the industry.

Mr. Rayside spoke for the extension of great liberality to the prospector and made an interesting contribution to the debate. The hon. member has a humorous way of putting things, and it was in speaking of the difficulty of drafting a measure that would commend itself to all parties that he said he wished he could draft a measure with regard to it that would be satisfactory to himself. With much of what the Commissioner of Crown Lands had said he was in sympathy, but he was of the opinion that the royalties would be a barrier to development.

Mr. Sol. White spoke against making so radical a change in the mining policy of the Province. It would have a disturbing effect on capitalists—an effect which would be bad for the industry.

Mr. H. Smith, the member for Frontenac, who was a California "forty-niner," addressed the House for the first time, and was given rounds of applause from both sides.

The motion for the second reading of the bill was put and carried, and after it the bill to amend the Public Lands Act and then the bill entitled the Mining Claims Act of 1891 were given their second readings, and all three were referred to the committee of the whole House without a division.

The House then went into committee on Mr. Ross' bill respecting the profession of stenographers, and reported it.

The Hon. Mr. Harcourt introduced a bill entitled an act respecting the Land Improvement Act.

These bills were read a second time:—

To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Awrey.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Gilmour.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Tait.

The House adjourned at 11.20 o'clock.

#### Agricultural College Report.

Few documents that come before the Legislature are read with greater or more general interest than the report of the Agricultural College. The report laid on the table of the House this year is the sixteenth annual issue. President James Mills gives a succinct and interesting summary of the affairs of the college, following which are the reports of the various professors and heads of departments. A considerable space in the president's report is devoted to an explanation of the change in the Christmas vacation made six years ago, which had been attacked as an injury to the college and to the agricultural interests of the Province by a writer whose letter appeared in a number of newspapers. Mr. Mills explains that formerly there were vacations at Christmas and Easter of half a month each and in the summer of one month. Now there are only two, one of a month at Christmas and one of a month in midsummer. He explains that the object was to give the professors an opportunity to meet the farmers and to take part in the meetings of farmers' institutes. This has been accomplished with the result of making the college better and more favorably known among the farmers and at the same time improving the knowledge both of the farming community and of the professors. He declares, however, that if it is thought better to make a change he will not oppose it. This is the list of departments in which lectures are given:—Agriculture, live stock and dairying, natural science, veterinary science, English literature and political economy, mathematics and bookkeeping.

The several departments have been well maintained under the efficient professors who have them severally in charge. Respecting attendance the report says:—

The attendance during the past year has been quite satisfactory, twelve more than the year before. The total number on the roll is 146, 75 per cent. of whom are from the Province of Ontario. Thirty-three counties of Ontario are represented, and the largest representation is from the counties of Grey, Middlesex, York, Prince Edward, Huron and Waterloo. Of the 49 who entered in October last 77 per cent. are farmers' sons; and I have no hesitation in saying that never before in the history of the college were our students so quiet, industrious and well-behaved as they have been during the term which ended on the 22nd of December last.

The prayer meetings, Bible classes and Young Men's Christian Association have been in successful operation. Alterations have been made in the building, which give a good hall, known as Y. M. C. A. hall, a pleasant place for the gathering of students. The principal notes with satisfaction that the number of smokers in the college has been reduced to three. In the examinations five students were successful in graduating and were honored with the degree of Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture. The total expenditure of the college was \$30,212, and the revenue, including \$26,585 voted by the Government, was \$32,426, leaving an unexpended balance of \$2,214. The buildings needed are a building to be used as convocation hall and gymnasium (provided for in the estimates now before the Legislature), green and propagating houses, house for the professor of chemistry, house for the professor of natural history.

#### Petitions.

A petition from the Business Men's Association of St. Catharines was presented this afternoon by Mr. Hiscott, that because the sittings of the high courts are held at long intervals and cases frequently adjourned, that therefore the jurisdiction of Division Courts be extended so as to include suits for open accounts up to \$300 and signed documents up to \$500.

A petition signed by 55 citizens of the City of Toronto was presented this afternoon by Mr. E. F. Clarke. It sets forth:—That the increasing quantity of land held as leasehold is assuming dangerous proportions; that the interests of the tenants are practically forfeited by the present system of arbitration. Therefore they ask that some measure be adopted by which lessors shall be compelled to sell the freehold on equitable terms during the currency of the lease to the lessees, who may have made valuable improvements on the property.

#### Hamilton City's Petition.

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton, by the hand of Hon. Mr. Gibson, placed a petition before the House this afternoon. It asked an amendment to the Municipal Act giving to every city of not less than 25,000 population the power to pass by-laws for four purposes:—For the election of aldermen from the city at large or partly from the city at large and partly from wards; to provide for the holding of office by aldermen for terms of three years instead of one year, as at present, and for the retirement each year of one-third of the aldermen; for reducing or adding to the number of aldermen to be elected; to extend the polling hours at municipal elections until 7 o'clock in the evening; provided always that no such by-law shall have any force or effect unless the same shall have been approved by a vote of a majority of the electors entitled to vote in the election of a mayor in such city.

#### Four Select Committees' Work.

The select committee to which the amendment to the Medical Act was referred passed all its clauses.

Mr. Tait's bill with regard to stationary engineers was disposed of by the select committee. All the compulsory clauses have been cut out, and as the bill will be reported it only gives to the engineers the authority to hold examinations and grant certificates of fitness.

Mr. Davis' bill to amend the Pharmacy Act was considered by the select committee this morning and adopted. There seemed to be a question whether or not, from the wording of the bill, it made the registering of the persons it referred to compulsory. It was slightly