

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Education of Farmers' Sons
Again Under Discussion.

THE FIRST DIVISION.

The Government has a Majority of Twenty-six.

MR. WHITE CHALLENGES ANYONE TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HIS EXPULSION.

TORONTO, March 30, 1892.

In the Legislative Assembly to-day the following bills were introduced and received a first reading:—

Mr. Mowat—Respecting the sitting of the High Court in certain cases; also respecting the duty of sheriffs on arresting persons under civil process; also to consolidate the acts respecting compensation to workmen in certain cases.

Mr. Stratton—To amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Gibson presented the following returns:—Report of the Bureau of Mines; report of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park commissioners.

Mr. Marter asked: Have the Government taken any steps to ascertain the damage done to the owners of lands in the Townships of Brunel and Stephenson, caused by their lands being flooded? If so, when, and has there been any report made thereon?

Mr. Harcourt said that an engineer was sent to that locality in October, 1891, to inspect the lands said to have been flooded and to make a report. The commissioner wishes to have a more complete investigation made, and an engineer will be instructed to make a report again this summer.

Mr. Campbell (Algoma) asked: Is it the intention of the Government to proceed this year with the building of a lock-up at St. Joseph Island? If so, where has it been decided that said lock-up shall be located?

Mr. Harcourt said the matter was still under the consideration of the Government.

EDUCATION OF FARMERS' SONS.

Mr. Hudson resumed the adjourned debate on the motion respecting the education of farmers' sons. He contrasted the condition of the country now and at Confederation, and declared that the farmers, on the whole, were in a prosperous state. He denied that the manufacturers had special benefits. The encouragement given to manufactures resulted in establishing a home market for the farmers, and in such keen competition that agricultural implements could be bought as cheaply at the farmers' doors as anywhere in the United States. He was proud of the educational institutions of the country, but at the same time he thought the farmers did not receive the educational advantages in the public schools which they were entitled to receive. He thought the standard of rural schools should be raised.

Mr. Glendinning said this was an important question and not easily grappled with. More attention, he considered, should be paid to farmers, and this could be done by giving greater assistance to the public schools. The public schools, he said, only received at the rate of \$1 per pupil, while the high schools were paid at the rate of \$12 per head. Farmers' institutes also were a good medium for aiding farmers, but he claimed there was too much

politics in them now, and it was stated in the public press that the president of the Central Institute was inclined to make too much of that question. He did not see that the Central Institute did much good.

Mr. McKechnie said he did not come forward on this question as a farmer, but his interests were identical with theirs. The farmers' institutes he considered were in the best interests of the farming community. He had attended some of the meetings in his riding (South Grey) and could speak from personal observation of the great benefit derived from them. They benefited not only the members but spectators and those who read the proceedings. He denied that politics was brought up at the meetings. The first meeting he attended was addressed by Prof. Robertson, now of the Dominion Experimental Farm, and at the various meetings the hall could not contain those who wished to attend. The subject of dairying was taken up by Dr. Palmer, and this important subject was discussed to the advantage of all present. He spoke of the various butter-producing countries, and the likelihood of Canadian butter at a not far distant date occupying a high position in this respect. Addresses on fruit and general farming were also given that were of a very helpful character. He referred to the good influences spread already by graduates of the Agricultural College, and defended the members of the Government as successful administrators of the trust reposed in them. He quoted from statistics to show that the public schools had been liberally aided, and showed that the character both of the instruction imparted and the buildings had been greatly improved. Log school houses were passing away and substantial stone or brick buildings were taking their place. Then there was the establishment of Mechanics' Institutes, with well-equipped libraries. In 1891 there were 204 of these institutes, with 22,262 members and 447,000 volumes, valued at \$334,000. (Applause.)

Mr. Magwood said that the rural municipalities felt that the Minister of Education did not pay enough attention to their public schools. He was in sympathy with the objects of the Agricultural College, but he declared that it was not as efficient as it ought to be.

Mr. Sprague was in sympathy with the object of the resolution, namely, that more money should be spent on the education of farmers' sons, but the discussion had drifted away from the resolution and attacks were made unreasonably on the Government. No Province had done more for its farmers than Ontario had done. The work done by the farmers' institutes showed that the Government was moving in the direction asked by the resolution. The same remark applied to the Agricultural College. It would be unfair to ask for favors in the way of legislation, for class legislation. All the farmers wanted was a fair start and the same advantages other classes were getting, and the farmers had these benefits. It was not correct to say that farmers were not getting equal advantages from the institution of higher learning. He deprecated the attacks made on the farmers' institutes and declared that the position taken by the president of the Central Institute was fair and reasonable. So far as the farmers were concerned they had no reason to complain. The Government had done fairly by the farmers, and the farmers required no special legislation. (Applause.)

Mr. Goöwin thought the standard of entrance to the high schools should be raised and the class of education in the public schools elevated.

Mr. Clancy denied that any attempt had been made by his side of the House to antagonise the primary and the secondary schools of the Province, but thought that the public schools were not receiving the attention their importance demanded. The high schools are doing a great deal of work which ought to be undertaken in the public schools. He said that twenty years ago the public, separate and poor schools received