

Feb 16

- W. J. Smith, et. al., Toronto, to enable the executors of the late John Smith to sell, or mortgage certain lands.
- The County Council of Haldimand, for the reduction of passenger rates on rail ways in Ontario.
- The Town Council of Trenton, to legalize and confirm the assessment roll of 1893.
- The Beechwood Cemetery Co. to amend its charter.
- The County Council of Middlesex, regarding an increase in the Public School grant.
- The County Council of Welland, to amend the game law respecting the shooting of ducks.
- The County Council of Leeds, regarding certain amendments to the school laws respecting moneys paid to High Schools.
- The Town Council of Bowmanville, to tax church property.
- The Upholsterers' International Union, Toronto, regarding land values.
- The City Council of Kingston, respecting a tax on land values.
- The Township of Woolaston, respecting land values.
- The Township of Madoc, respecting land values.
- The Township of Mayo, respecting land values.
- The Township of Limerick, respecting land values.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

- Not a great number of notices of motion were laid before the House, the following being the list:—
- Mr. Gilmour—On Monday next, a bill to exempt homesteads; a bill to abolish the personal covenant in mortgages.
- Mr. Waters—A bill respecting the protection of life and property at railway crossings in cities, towns and villages; a bill to amend the assessment act; a bill to amend the municipal act.
- Mr. Whitney—A bill respecting witness' fees.
- Mr. Clancy—Inquiry of the Ministry—How much of the sum voted by the Province in aid of railways has been paid by direct cash payments, and how much have railway aid certificates or scrip been issued for in lieu of direct cash payments, respectively, to the 31st December, 1893?

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

On rising to move a resolution acknowledging the speech of his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. W. B. Wood, who was received with cheers, said he wished to do what the majority of his predecessors had done, viz., to ask the indulgence of the hon. members of the House. This he believed he would receive not only from his political friends on that side of the House, but also from hon. gentlemen opposite, many, if not all, of whom he numbered, and trusted he would always be able to number, among his warm personal friends.

On such an occasion one could scarcely avoid commenting upon the beauty, solidity, adaptability and special fitness of the magnificent home of the Legislature. The sound of the hammer, the chisel and the saw so frequently heard during the last session was now a thing of the past, and this Parliament of the second year of the second century of the existence of representative government in Canada offered the Minister of Public Works its congratulations upon the complete completion of that monumental pile of buildings.

It would be surprising if the speech from the throne did not make special reference to that most important of all the industries of Ontario, agriculture. The present and ultimate prosperity of the Province undoubtedly depended almost entirely upon the success of the farmer. The reason for the general depression that prevailed was not far to seek. The mechanic, the merchant and the manufacturer suffered because of the hard times that pressed with greater and greater

force upon the farmer. It was certainly not the duty of the Legislature to draw an unduly dark picture of the present condition of this great industry. Personally he had no desire to do so, but recognizing as the House did the absolute correctness of the statement made by his Honor in the address, it became its bounden duty to look the matter squarely in the face with the view of doing what it could—using to the full the somewhat limited power it possessed under the B.N.A. act to place the farmers of the Province in a better position. The depression was clearly traceable, in a greater or less degree, to the very low prices obtainable for many of the products of the farm. Various causes had contributed to bring this about, and the House was powerless to deal with that phase of the question. What then could it do? What had it done? And what were the results? Those questions had been answered more or less fully in the speech from the throne.

Failing to find a profitable market for the production of the past, it became necessary for the farmer to adopt new meth-

ods leading to the production of new articles for which a profitable market could be found—new methods leading to the production of the very highest and best quality of these new articles; new methods leading to the production of the greatest possible quantity of everything raised on the farm, and all these at very much less cost than formerly. What did all this mean? It meant a revolution for which many of our farmers were not very well prepared, and it became the duty of the Government to assist them. How could it do so? Mainly by supplying information. Under the new system forced upon the farmer information became the great need of the time, special information upon the special lines of agriculture hereafter to be followed, but upon a subject so difficult as that of advanced agriculture, based as it was upon scientific principles, how was reliable information to be obtained? Mainly by a process of experiments. And how could a Government make the necessary experiments? Only in a plain, practical, common-sense way, by the use of a farm and college, and these in charge of first-class, well-qualified men who loved the profession.

It was never intended then that the Agricultural College and farm at Guelph would be a money-making institution. That could not be, but it was fulfilling its mission as a great educational institution, as a great experimental station. And how were the results of these experiments to be put in possession of the farmers of Ontario? In four ways, mainly—by the education of the farmers' sons at the college, through the bulletins circulated by the Minister of Agriculture, through Farmers' Institutes and by the travelling dairy.

The equipment of the college was now more complete than at any time in its history, and it must be a source of gratification to every member of the House to know that the number of students in attendance was now larger than at any previous time, the number of regular students on the roll being 185, dairy students 60, summer session students 34, making a grand total of 280 during the year.

Reference was also made in the address to the special course for Public School teachers at Guelph. Some 30 or 40 of the teachers of the Province availed themselves of this course last session, and there was every prospect that a very much larger number will attend the coming session.

There could be no question about the immense value of the Farmers' Institutes now being annually held in every electoral district of the Province. Think of forty or fifty thousand of our most thoughtful and progressive farmers first storing their minds with the intensely interesting information contained in the bulletins sent broadcast by the Department of Agriculture, and then meeting together for days at a time, under the leadership of properly qualified persons, to discuss and re-discuss details of every subject connected with their great industry, comparing notes and relating the results of their various experiments; and no one could for a moment doubt the utility and usefulness of Farmers' Institutes. All that he had said about Farmers' Institutes applied with equal force to the travelling dairy. The entire Province had been covered within the past three years; 669 meetings had been held, and the people in many of the districts were clamoring for a second visit.

Recognizing the pre-eminent importance of the agricultural industry; recognizing the immense capital invested in it; recognizing the intelligence of the farmers of the Province, as well as their numerical strength, he had always believed that if anything more could be done it should be done. Were he at liberty to speak for the Government of the day, representing, as it was his very great honor to do, a splendid agricultural constituency, he would say to the farmers of the Province: "If there is anything more you want, let us know what it is, and any reasonable request of a majority of yourselves will be instantly satisfied." (Applause.)

The address referred to the fact that their receipts from the Crown Lands Department this year ran up to the very large sum of \$1,844,450, being \$44,450 above the amount estimated. It was a matter of very great satisfaction to the people to find the revenue from this department keeping up to the usual high level. This would enable the Government not only to maintain in a general way its generous policy of lightening the burdens and lessening the taxes of the municipalities, but, in addition, to erect permanent public institutions in different parts of the Province without creating a dollar of Provincial debt for that purpose. In discussing that question his hon. friend, the able leader of the Opposition, generally took the view that their timber should be allowed to stand for the benefit of future generations. He did not quarrel with that view. He be-