

ter was likely to come up for discussion in the House. There was entirely too much of this sort of thing going on. The Chairman of the Printing Committee seemed to be altogether ignored.

Mr. Meredith said he had not referred in his remarks to ordinary departmental reports. There might be something to be said in favor of this being done, but he protested against the idea that anybody or any department had the right to spend the people's money printing unnecessary documents or books without the sanction of the House. It was treating both sides of the House most unfairly. Mr. Meredith added with regard to the printing of reports that the Government was also very inconsistent. It had some time ago voted down a proposition emanating from the Opposition in favor of having the reports printed during the recess; but had now accepted the principle so far as concerned printing them without their being passed on by the Printing Committee.

Hon. Mr. Ross said Mr. Meredith was very inconsistent. First he protested because reports were not brought down, and when the Government brought them down he protested again because they were brought down. He was quite inconsistent. The precedents were innumerable for the course taken by the Government. Even Mr. Meredith did not say it was not in the public interest, and there could be no doubt but that it was in the public interest. It would be impossible to procure the consent of the House to nine-tenths of the reports printed and serve the public interest. Take the public accounts, for instance, how could the subject matter be submitted to the Printing Committee, and yet the report be down in good time during the session? It was a case where the convenience of members of the House had most decidedly to give way to the interests of the public. As it was, the Government made an effort to have as many reports as possible down at the beginning of the session.

Mr. Clancy would not admit that the reports were brought down promptly as Mr. Ross claimed. The reports that were placed in the hands of members during the early days of the session were of a most inconsequential character. The important reports were always kept until the session was well advanced. What Mr. Meredith contended was that Ministers should not on their own whim and pleasure print matter that was not essentially a departmental report or a portion of a departmental report. The Government had too much license in this matter altogether. The Printing Committee was too little regarded. He remembered, for instance, Mr. Bryant's book on agriculture. It was nothing but campaign literature. The Printing Committee went through the form of passing it, but it had been printed before.

Mr. Balfour, as Chairman of the Printing Committee, then stepped into the debate. He thought it odd, he said, that hon. gentlemen opposite who were members of the Printing Committee had not raised the point at the sessions of the committee. He did not see that the rights of the Printing Committee had been infringed upon. He did not think that it had happened on more than two or three occasions in many years that members of the Government had come down with anything printed, and on those occasions the matter consisted only of two or three pamphlets, chiefly on the French school question, the expenditure in connection with which had been very small. All the reports printed came fairly before the committee and no objection had ever been raised to them there. Members of the Opposition had themselves never been refused a request to have anything they wanted printed. He thought a little investigation would show that the expenditure in connection with these requests would amount to much more than the cost of similar matters printed at the instance of Ministers.

Mr. Whitney said the fact, if it was a fact, that the committee had sanctioned improper expenditure at the instance of Opposition members was no excuse for the same being done at the instance of Ministers.

Mr. Balfour denied that he had intimated this. He had only said matter had been printed at the request of members of the Opposition.

Mr. Hardy remarked that if the hon. gentlemen admitted that it was proper to print the reports for the convenience of the House they admitted everything. No one would deny that it was desirable that these reports of the Ministers should be printed. The report of the Minister of Education might be printed any time after July 1st, and the report on the prisons and charities any time after September 30th. What objection could be raised to this particular publication from the Department of Education he could not see. The Minister, had he been so minded, would have had a perfect right to embrace it in his ordinary report as an appendix, as being perfectly a legitimate

portion of his report; this, however, was a better and more convenient form and was chosen as such. If there was no objection to the printing of the report there could be no objection to this. A Minister is responsible for what is contained in his report, and if there is anything improper in it he can be questioned; but the Opposition had been careful to say that it might be a very good book. He did not think there was any disrespect shown to the House, or that the charge had been well taken.

PRIVATE BILLS.

This closed the discussion. Before the House rose Mr. Barr of Dufferin expressed a hope that the time for private bills would be extended as usual.

Hon. Mr. Gibson, in reply, said that he thought he should take advantage of the request to remark that those who desire private bills legislation deserve a lesson with respect to the carelessness with which such bills are brought before the House. The House had its rules with regard to the time in which all the neces-

sary preliminary steps should be taken, but the impression seemed to be gaining ground that it would in point of fact wait until all were in, despite their delays. However, he had no doubt that some provision would be made.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Progress is the dominant feature of the nineteenth annual report of the Ontario Agricultural College, which Hon. Mr. Dryden laid on the table. Among the lines on which progress has been made, the President's report mentions the completion of the greenhouses, the construction of a large farm piggery, the erection of a dairy building and two dairy cottages, the appointment of a lecturer on horticulture, the organization of a summer school for teachers, and the commencement of a home dairy course for farmers' sons and daughters. The attendance is described as quite satisfactory, the year having been begun with all rooms occupied, while in October there were applicants for every vacancy. The total number on the roll in 1893 was:—Regular students, 186; dairy students, 60; summer school in July, 34; grand total, 280. The number on the roll, it is stated, is always in excess of the number in attendance at any particular term, owing to the fact of the year ending in midsummer. A comparison of the fall terms of 1883 and 1893 shows that in the former term there were 94 students in the general course and 15 in the special live stock course, a total of 109; while in the fall of 1893 the general course comprised 111 students. The classification of students shows 23 in the third year, 53 in the second year, and 110 in the first year. Fifty of the students were nominated by the County Councils, and were exempted from tuition fees. The average age of the student is 21 years. Several changes of staff are noted. Mr. H. B. Sharman, B.S.A., assistant chemist, resigned in August, and was succeeded by Mr. Robert Harcourt, B.S.A. Mr. John McCrae, assistant resident master, returned to the University to complete his course, and Mr. J. B. Reynolds, B.A., was chosen as his successor. Prof. Shaw left for Minnesota at the same time, and his place was filled by making Mr. C. A. Zavitz, B.S. A., head of the experimental department, appointing Mr. G. E. Day, B.S. A., lecturer on agriculture, live stock, etc., and placing Mr. William Rennie of Swansea in charge of the farm. As farm superintendent, Mr. Rennie devotes his whole time to the management of the farm and live stock, and the control and oversight of men and students at work. By this arrangement the office of farm foreman has been dispensed with, and the services of Mr. J. E. Story, who has held the position since July, 1887, are no longer required. Mr. H. L. Hutt, B.S.A., has been appointed lecturer in horticulture. Mr. F. C. Harrison, B.S.A., has been discharging the duties of librarian and assistant in the biological department.

The farm work proper is reported as having gone on as usual, the cattle having done fairly well, and the sheep being in good condition, while the pigs have paid best of all. Work in the other departments was pushed on with vigor. The dairy course has been a pronounced success, and the completion of a large, new building will enable twice as many students as before to be accommodated. The summer session for Public School teachers was also a success. The special reports of the departments, the information as to the internal working of the college, and the appended reports of the meetings of Farmers' Institutes and of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union are full and valuable. A feature of the report is the number of excellent views of the buildings.