

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Legislative Chamber, March 1.

The budget having been deferred, at the request of the Opposition, this afternoon had nothing up of a more exciting character than a brief but somewhat lively debate on tuberculosis, initiated by Mr. McColl on a motion for returns. It was a subject on which the Minister of Agriculture was a master. His critics appeared to have been wrongly or insufficiently informed concerning the whole matter, and Mr. Dryden's clear and comprehensive statement at once showed the House how promptly he had acted and what excellent steps had been since taken to prevent the spread of the disease and to make a thorough investigation into it.

## CONEY ISLAND.

Mr. Inmee asked what portion of Coney Island, Lake of the Woods, has been granted to William McCarthy, and what was the nature of his claim to the said portion? Has he any right or claim to further portions of said island, and are there any other claimants? Has the said McCarthy made assignments of his claims, and to whom were such assignments made? What grants have been made on recognition of such assignments?

Hon. Mr. Hardy replied as follows:—“No portion of Coney Island, Lake of the Woods, has been granted to William McCarthy of Rat Portage, but in 1889 he applied for the whole island, containing 479 acres, claiming that he had lived on the east end of said island from 1881 to 1887, and had made valuable improvements thereon. Early in 1892, after consideration of his claims, it was agreed to sell 142 1-2 acres off the easterly end of the island, at \$3 50 per acre. On March 10th, 1892, it was ruled that, in addition to the above, a block containing fifteen acres on Coney Island might be sold to Mr. McCarthy at \$3 50 per acre. Mr. McCarthy has no right or claim to any further portion of Coney Island. Mr. McCarthy assigned his claim for the above 142 1-2 acres to C. P. Wilson of Winnipeg, and on payment of the purchase money the patent issued to Mr. Wilson on June 27th, 1893. The other portion, fifteen acres, has not yet been paid for by Mr. McCarthy, and consequently no patent has been issued. There were some other claimants to portions of the island.”

## AGRICULTURAL HALL.

Mr. Miscampbell asked—Who is the present tenant of the shop in the Agricultural Hall and what rent does he pay? Has any part of the \$11,396 25 expended by the Province in the year 1892 for alterations to Agricultural Hall been repaid by the Agriculture and Arts Association, or by the tenant of the premises, Mr. Philip Jamieson; if so, how much has been repaid, and when and by whom?

Hon. Mr. Dryden replied:—The shop in the Agricultural Hall is leased by the Agriculture and Arts Association to Mr. Philip Jamieson, who pays an annual rental of \$2,000. Since the removal of the Department of Agriculture, the tenant heats the whole building, providing his own engineer, the Agriculture and Arts Association allowing him \$120 as its share of the cost. Two thousand dollars of the sum mentioned was repaid by the Agriculture and Arts Association on December 29, 1884.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Mr. McColl moved for an order of the House for a return showing (1) the advertisements for the sale of the cattle offered for sale at the Agricultural College in December last; (2) the conditions of sale; (3) a list of the names of the purchasers and the prices paid for the animals sold; (4) a list of the animals of

which the purchasers refused to complete the sale; (5) a statement of the animals sold and afterwards returned; (6) the names of the persons from whom such animals, if any, were purchased by the Province, and the prices paid for them; (7) a list of the animals in respect of which the test for tuberculosis was applied, and statement of the result in each case.

Mr. McColl, in speaking to this motion, alluded at some length to the outbreak of tuberculosis at the Agricultural College. He charged that the college authorities had endeavored to smother up the news of the outbreak, and asserted that Mr. Dryden's answer on the day previous to Mr. White's question as to the Ayrshire cattle at the farm was an illustration of this. The answer had given information not asked for and had omitted to give information that was asked for. He had told that one bull had won a prize at the World's Fair, but had not told the House that of the eight Ayrshires three had been shown to be diseased. From the information he had received he had reason to believe that either the grossest neglect or inexcusable ignorance had characterized the management. That in fourteen months 22 head out of some 45 had been slaughtered and nine others shown to be infected was, he thought, a lamentable state of affairs. He could excuse the purchaser for being imposed upon and acquiring a diseased animal, but he could not excuse the manner in which the disease had been allowed to spread. He had known ordinary farmers have such cases on their hands and adopt proper means of isolation. But President Mills' own version had shown that Prof. Reed's orders as to isolation had not been carried out, and that the healthy and diseased cattle had been kept in the same stable on opposite sides, facing each other, with only a narrow alley between them. This was not efficient isolation. But the worst feature of the outbreak was, Mr. McColl's opinion, the offering of the diseased cattle for sale. That, he thought, was very reprehensible indeed.

Hon. Mr. Dryden, in reply, said the Government had no objection whatever to giving all the information possible in regard to the discovery of the disease at the Agricultural College Farm. He presumed Mr. McColl could not blame the Government for the outbreak occurring there. But, the outbreak having occurred, and having been discovered, it became manifestly the duty of the Government to pursue whatever investigations were nec-

essary in regard to it, as to its origin, the manner in which it spreads, and as to whether or not it was possible to cure it, and he presumed all this noise about the matter was brought about because of the instructions of the Government to that effect. But for such investigation neither the Government nor the public would have known to what extent the disease existed in the college farm. Dr. Reed was given instructions to diagnose the disease by means of Dr. Koch's lymph. He did not know whether the hon. gentleman who moved the motion was aware of this or not, but it was only by means of the use of this fluid that it was at all possible to detect the disease in its earliest stages. Now, these experiments had been going on ever since the discovery of the disease. It was the purpose of the department to publish in bulletin form whatever information was obtained in regard to the disease, and whatever had been discovered in regard to it, for the benefit of the farmers of Ontario, so that if the disease should unfortunately break out amongst their cattle they might be able to detect it, and know what was the best thing to do under the circumstances. Now, the college at Guelph was not alone among similar institutions in having an outbreak of this disease. Similar instances had occurred in several eastern States—in Maine, Vermont, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. He supposed the hon. gentleman knew there was also a similar outbreak at the Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa, but there, apparently, it had been much more severe than at Guelph. Several of the animals there died from the disease. None of the animals at Guelph went so far as that, and very few of them could have been detected as being sick, save by the test. Those that were slaughtered at Ottawa also had been found to be in a much more advanced stage of the disease than those at Guelph. It would be interesting to observe whether any of the diseased cattle which have been distributed from the Ottawa farm to the branch farms will carry the germs with them; in that case more outbreaks might occur in a few months, the disease being slow in its operation. Herds which have been gathered from all over the country, bought individually as have the Guelph one, are much more susceptible to the disease than others, drawing as