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till the adjournment of the House. Mr. Meredith spoke at length in favor of his project, and was followed by the Attorney-General, who ably opposed the innovation. Mr. H. P. O'Connor moved an amendment which declared for a reduction of the members' sessional indemnity from \$500 a year to \$300, and Mr. Clancy moved an amendment to the amendment which sought to incorporate the spirit of Mr. O'Connor's amendment with Mr. Meredith's original resolution. The matter was not pushed to a vote, the debate being adjourned, on motion of Mr. Guthrie.

AGRICULTURE & ARTS ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Preston moved for an order of the House for a return showing the full amount of the Government grant to the Agriculture and Arts Board, and a detailed statement of its expenditure for the past five years.

His object in moving this, Dr. Preston said, was to get some information as to the duties and desirability of this board. A number of years before it was perhaps doing a good work, but its usefulness had largely departed when the old Provincial Exhibition was done away with and other exhibitions substituted. Yet the board still received its grant of \$5,800, which was expended in certain directions which the speaker could not see were of great use to the mass of the people, such as ploughing matches, by which only a few benefited, while the township shows have taken the place of the old exhibition, which the association managed. In fact, the representatives of the township fairs had recently voted for the discontinuance of the grant to the association and the distribution of it among the township fairs. The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Preston thought, should be able to take charge of the work done by this association, and the large portion of the grant which is now spent in mileage and indemnity could then be spent to better advantage. The association he thought at present unnecessary, while the Minister of Agriculture had plenty of time to devote to such duties, as he seemed to have plenty of time to run about the country attending political meetings, to go down to his own farm and to spend much time that might be given to the service of his department.

Hon. Mr. Dryden said that the motion was not explicit, in that it did not specify whether the whole expenditure since the beginning of the association or only that of a term of years was wanted. Moreover, the required detailed information could be got in the yearly reports of the Agriculture and Arts Association for every year since the discontinuance of the Provincial Exhibition. As for the matters mentioned by Dr. Preston, it was important to recollect that the Agriculture and Arts Association and the Agricultural Society were different affairs, and not to confuse the grants given to the two entirely different organizations. The point as to the importance of the association's work was one that was susceptible of argument. Its history showed that it had done valuable service in its day, but that it has been supplanted in many fields by other organizations. It still, however, kept up its annual Fat Stock Show, and this was undoubtedly a valuable thing. If the Agriculture and Arts Association were discontinued some other association might be found to carry on the show; but one thing was certain, that the people of the Province do not want to see the Department of Agriculture rush into the show business. The Spring Horse Show was another valuable work carried on by the association, though also one which other associations might carry on. The registry of stock was another important feature of the association's work; a valuable work, whether or no other machinery could be found to carry it on in the event of the association's discontinuance. Mr.

Dryden then referred to Dr. Preston's impression that he had nothing to do. It was complained that he was going about the country addressing his fellow-electors upon the topics of the day. Why should he not do this? He did not abuse anybody, and undoubtedly had the right to speak in the country whenever he saw fit. If the House thought the time had come for the discontinuance of the Agriculture and Arts Association, he made no objection, but it should be shown that the work it now carries on could be as well done by other bodies as at present. He would be obliged if Dr. Preston, if he desired to press the motion, would specify the term for which he wished the return.

Dr. Preston replied that he pressed the motion. As for the Minister's speeches in the country, if he went around speaking on agricultural subjects there would be no objection; but the members of the House did think that he should have something more to do than to go around lecturing the people on other than agricultural subjects, and he therefore thought he should have these departments of work to occupy

his time. It was well known that the prizes given were not in the interests of the whole agricultural community; only a few could benefit by the prizes for the best farm, or the best ploughing, while the Fat Stock Show benefited merely the breeders, not the whole people. When the detailed statement of expenses of the association appeared, the impression would be strengthened that the time had come when there was no need for it, and that means should be devised of taking its place. No one would find fault with the Minister if he went about himself to address the farmers, to address them on agricultural topics, instead of paying others to address them.

Mr. Awrey defended Mr. Dryden's right to speak on political topics. It was remarkable, he said, that of all public men in Ontario the Minister of Agriculture should be the only one attacked for going through the country speaking on agricultural or political subjects. In becoming Minister of Agriculture he had not ceased to be a citizen, nor a leader of public thought, and he still had the right to talk to his fellow-farmers on public topics. As for the work of the Agriculture and Arts Association, it was certain that the Agricultural Department could not undertake the Fat Stock Show. Certainly, too, that show was of great value to the breeders of the Province, and none of them would grudge the grant to it in consideration of the valuable service it had done. The ploughing matches Mr. Awrey considered to be of value still; while the work of the association in the registration of stock had had much to do with Ontario's present enviable position in regard to stock. Granted that the association had outlived its usefulness, granted that other bodies could take its place, why should Mr. Dryden be attacked for the existence of an institution which was created by statute years before he had come into office? As for the accounts, expert accountants had pronounced the association's bookkeeping good, and amounts down to 25 cents could be found in its annual statements.

Mr. Meredith suggested that the return be classified, so as to show the proportion spent for travelling expenses, for prizes, etc. He thought Mr. Dryden had shown too much temper in replying to Dr. Preston, who had pointed out that he spent too much time in speaking in the country, having already in the session been absent from his place more than once to attend meetings. The party was desirous to capture a particular vote, and the Minister of Agriculture was employed to make out a case for the Government, for that purpose taking time which should be devoted to the service of the Province. The Opposition had a right to call attention to this; the Minister had a right to defend his department, and to speak to a reasonable extent, but hardly to the extent to which he had gone.

Mr. Waters thought Mr. Dryden right in his course in addressing public meetings. He had never read any report of a meeting which Mr. Dryden had addressed which was not benefited by his clear and lucid remarks on agricultural matters as well as upon political topics. As for the Agriculture and Arts Association, he thought it had outlived its usefulness and that its place could be taken by other bodies. In the department of shows it was superseded; in the arts and sciences other organizations existed which did its work; the prizes for farms were not very useful; the ploughing match is, he thought, also out of date; and so with regard to other original objects of the association. As for the Fat Stock Show and Horse Show, he thought grants should be given to the stock and horse associations, and the Agriculture and Arts Association wiped out.

Hon. Mr. Dryden asked if Dr. Preston would have a term of years, and the doctor agreed to add the words "for the past five years" to the motion. As for the question of classification, Mr. Dryden did not think it necessary. Anyone could do it for himself, he said. The motion as amended was accordingly passed.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

Mr. Hudson moved for an order of the House for a return of all Coroners' inquests held under the provisions of the revised statutes respecting Coroners, or the acts consolidated therein, for each of the ten years preceding the 1st of January, 1880, and for each of the ten years succeeding the same date; the return to show the particulars for each year separately, and whether such inquests were held under the provisions of section 3 of the said revised statutes, or of sub-section 1 of the 4th section, or of sub-section 2 of the said 4th section thereof.

The motion was carried without debate.

A LICENSE CASE.

Mr. Hudson also moved for an order of House for a return of copies of all correspondence between Mrs. M.H.M. Davis and the Government, or any officer