

Mr. Balfour opposed this, urging that this would strike at the root of the bill, which had been prepared at such an expenditure of time and labor. Mr. Whitney should be satisfied with the concessions made the day before; in any case, his amendment would work, he thought, injuriously to the people in the east, who were less experienced in the matters of drainage than those in other parts of the Province.

Mr. Clancy opposed the amendment, holding that the principle of a request from the majority was most necessary, and should be retained. The amendment should not be allowed to pass. Mr. Waters also considered the amendment a blow at the foundation of the bill, and the amendment was then lost on division, Mr. Whitney declaring himself as yet unconvinced. The bill was then read a third time.

EXPERIMENTAL FRUIT STATIONS.

Committee of Supply came next, and Mr. Balfour took the chair, after Mr. Meredith had observed that there was but one copy of the supplementary estimates left on each desk.

The items for civil government, administration of justice, education and public institutions maintenance were passed without serious objection. When the items for agriculture were reached, Mr. Clancy demanded an explanation of the item of \$1,000 for experimental fruit stations. He thought that Mr. Dryden's speech at Whitby, in which he outlined his plan with regard to these stations, was a species of bribery, in that he had declared it just before the elections, as an inducement to re-election at the hands of his constituents.

Hon. Mr. Dryden remarked that he did not think that he had done anything irregular in speaking as he had, inasmuch as the item had been published in the supplementary estimates for some days. He had been frequently asked by the Fruit Growers' Association to start such a station, say in the Niagara district. His objection to that was that conditions vary so in the different localities that results obtained in one place would be valueless for other places. What would be done under this scheme was to establish stations in different portions of the country, giving to each \$100, other sums going for the purchase of trees and other expenses; competent superintendents would be appointed, and reports would be made. The counties in which the stations would be placed would be Frontenac, Simcoe, Huron, Wentworth and Essex. A general board of control would be appointed, composed of the President and horticulturist of the Ontario Agricultural College and three gentlemen elected by the Fruit Growers' Association. A local board of control would be established for each station, and as to the composition of that the Government would have nothing to say; so that efficiency and not political influence was what was aimed at. By this plan the Province would be fairly covered. He thought the scheme a good one.

Mr. Hiscott thought there should be a more elaborate experimental fruit farm, with provisions for a scientific study of the problems of fruit-growing.

Mr. Meredith said he could see no objection to the scheme as unfolded. He had long believed in the plan of decentralized experiment, and thought that should be done in relation to agricultural work in general. He then asked the Minister as to the selection of the superintendents.

Hon. Mr. Dryden replied that the work of decentralized experiment was being carried out at present by means of the Experimental Union, which received a small vote annually. As to the appointment of superintendents of stations, that would rest with the Fruit Growers' Association. One man had been chosen that he knew of, Mr. Pettit, for Wentworth, a very competent man.

Mr. Awrey observed that Mr. Pettit was a Conservative.

The item then passed.

The item of \$6,900 for hospitals and charities, comprising the revote of \$4,000 to the Oxford County House of Refuge, the grant not having been applied for last year, and an allowance of \$2,900 for prolonged treatment of cases of spinal, hip and knee diseases in the Sick Children's Hospital was next taken up. Hon. Mr. Gibson spoke of the large proportion of this class of cases that came to the hospital in question for treatment and of the great desirability of such cases getting as effective treatment as possible.

There was some discussion on the question of the Grant to Oxford County, Mr. Coll complaining of the treatment

in Oxford County was getting, and Mr. Gibson insisting that under the law all counties were treated alike.

Under the head of maintenance and repairs, the sum of \$4,068 51 was asked, which included sums ranging from \$200 to \$400 for cleaning different departments. This afforded Mr. Meredith the opportunity of having a little fun at the expense of

the Gov. department. He needed cleaning, and his side of the House had been urging it for many years. He noticed the Education Department was omitted, which, he thought, a mistake, as it was a perfect Augean stable. He did not see how the cleaning could be done for the modest sums named, but the general election might help matters.

The House laughed at Mr. Meredith's joke and the item went through.

The items for public works included \$2,000 to aid in the reconstruction of a bridge over Nation River in Russell County. Mr. Meredith thought the principle a bad one, and one which would lead to similar applications from other parts of the country who met with disasters of the same kind. Mr. Evarianturel defended the item on the ground of exceptional circumstances. The people of the locality had begged the Government to grant aid to the construction of the bridge, which was greatly needed, while the resources of the people of the locality were very limited. The Government had refused the aid and the people had succeeded in putting it up themselves. Now it had been swept away and it would be a great hardship to the locality to be refused any aid in this reconstruction. He mentioned also that both parties were united in support of the application to the Government.

Mr. Meredith still maintained that the principle was a bad one.

The Attorney-General repeated what Mr. Evarianturel had said, and urged that under all the circumstances the grant was a reasonable one.

After some further discussion the committee reported progress at 1 o'clock, and the House rose for recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The municipal amendment bill came up for its third reading when the Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock. Mr. Waters moved to strike out clause 14, which repeals clause 533a of the consolidated municipal act, declaring that a proportion of the cost of bridges over 100 feet long must be borne by the counties. The Municipal Committee struck out clause 533a, and Mr. Waters moved to reinsert the clause, holding that very few deputations had appeared before the committee, which had in consequence not fairly represented the feeling of the country.

Mr. Bishop defended the repeal of clause 533a, and cited the dissatisfaction which the provision had caused. Dr. Barr opposed Mr. Waters' amendment, as did also Mr. Rorke. Mr. Garrow defended the action of the committee, and Mr. Balfour advocated the dropping of the obnoxious clause. After some further discussion the amendment was defeated by a vote of 46 to 22. Sir Oliver Mowat and Hon. Mr. Ross supported Mr. Waters, and Hon. Messrs. Hardy, Gibson, Harcourt and Dryden and Mr. Meredith voted with the majority. The bill was then read a third time.

The House then went into committee of supply again, the item of public works being discussed. Mr. Meredith was inclined to think that the item of \$1,000 to meet claims in respect of lands alleged to be damaged by Provincial works on Mary's Lake was intended as a piece of electioneering, and in this was supported by Mr. Marter.

The item for the rebuilding of the bridge over Nation River being again subjected to criticism on the part of the Opposition, Hon. Mr. Hardy rose and said that although the Government had thought a good case had been made out for the vote in question, yet they had no desire to force it through if any section of the House opposed it. The Government was therefore willing the vote should be withdrawn.

In connection with the vote for public works, the question of arterial drainage came up and was subjected to a general discussion. The Attorney-General announced that he was of opinion that this question ought to be taken up in a systematic manner. He would make it a point, he said, to request the successor of the present Commissioner of Public Works to take up this matter, and he was assured that in so doing he would have the support of all his colleagues. He hoped that the question would be settled as satisfactorily as was that of the municipal loan fund.

Mr. Meredith agreed that the question of arterial drainage should be taken up in a thorough and non-partizan manner. He declared, however, that he was not of opinion that the municipal loan fund had been satisfactorily settled. Great hardship had been inflicted in some cases.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt defended the management of the municipal loan fund.

After some further discussion the vote of \$10,000 for public works was passed, the item of \$2,000 for the bridge over the Nation River being withdrawn.

Colonization roads expenditures came up next, and were passed after some discussion. The vote of \$48,950 50 for miscellaneous items was then taken up. Some discussion arose over the item of \$3,500 for balance of accounts in connection with the World's Fair, the Opposition thinking that it was too indefinite. Mr. Awrey made a