

Agriculture Estimates.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the estimates for the Department of Agriculture. In the items for special grants, Mr. Dryden pointed out a reduction from \$20,000 to \$10,000 for administration of the San Jose scale act, and the omission of any grant for instruction in fruit spraying, where \$2,500 was given last year, the department believing the farmers to have now energetically taken the matter up themselves. Increases of \$500 were given the Cattle and Sheep Breeders' Associations each, to encourage fat stock shows.

Improvement of Stock.

Mr. Crawford (West Toronto) thought something should be done to encourage better stock. Mr. Dryden replied that we were on the up-grade now, and within five years there would be no difficulty in getting good stock in the Province. Mr. Crawford repeated that the best Canadian cattle had for years taken as high a price in England as any United States cattle, and suggested that something should be done to secure better transportation rates to the seaboard.

Mr. Matheson (South Lanark) suggested the striking out of the \$2,600 item for the Western Dairy School, saying the attendance did not warrant its maintenance, but the item passed. Mr. Monteith (South Perth) argued in favor of an increase to the \$1,200 grant to the Ontario Experimental Union.

Mr. Duff (West Simcoe) criticized the Pioneer Dairy Farm expenditures, which exceeded the receipts. Mr. Dryden pointed out that as a result of the establishment of the farm at Dryden a prosperous settlement had sprung up, and the attention of the world had been directed to the farming wealth of the region.

Mr. Robson (East Middlesex) emphasized the necessity of encouraging good stock by liberal grants to the fat stock shows.

Mr. Kidd (Carleton) charged that some of the Farmers' Institute lecturers were appointed for political reasons, a statement which Mr. Dryden emphatically denied. Mr. Kidd went on to say that some of them were not properly instructed in their work. Mr. Dryden replied that his effort was to send out men who were successful farmers, and some of them might not always be good speakers.

Salaries at O. A. C.

In the estimates for the Ontario Agricultural College, Mr. Matheson objected to the items for assistants on the staff, and said the professors had no more ability than the ordinary high school master, yet were paid from \$1,300 to \$1,800. Mr. Dryden said he could find a hundred men in the Province who could take the position of principal of a high school, where he could not find one who would be suitable for a professorship in the college. If we were to have an Agricultural College he wanted to have it properly equipped. Mr. Jessop (Lincoln) thought the professors should be made to earn their money by each teaching two or three subjects, and that the students should pay their own doctor's bills.

Before adjournment for dinner Mr. Stratton extended an invitation to the members to visit the Central Prison at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning.

At night a short time was spent in Committee of Supply, when the estimates in connection with the Agricultural College were passed after the usual criticisms had been made by the Opposition and successfully met by Hon. Mr. Dryden.

The committee then rose and reported progress.

Spanish River Concession.

Hon. Mr. Ross, in resuming the adjourned debate on the motion to ratify the agreement with the Spanish River Pulp Company, said the object of agreements of this kind was to promote the establishment of a very valuable industry and to further settlement in the unproductive parts of Ontario. Three such agreements had been already unanimously ratified by the House, namely, those for the establishment of pulp works at Sault Ste. Marie, Nipigon Lake and Sturgeon Falls. In the case of the Clergue factory at Sault Ste. Marie \$2,000,000 had been invested and 700 hands were employed. Last year \$300,000 was expended in wages, and this year it would be twice that amount. Further, Mr. Clergue proposed to expend \$6,000,000 in building a railway through a section of northern Ontario, for which he only asked a subvention of land, and to build at a cost of \$1,500,000 works for the refining of copper and nickel. Mr. Clergue had not yet fully indicated the extent of the industries he might guide and direct, but was arranging within the next few years to make an outlay of from \$14,000,000 to \$16,000,000 of money. The energy displayed by Mr. Clergue and the success which he had achieved showed him to be a remarkable man. The next agreement entered into was for the development of an industry on Lake Nipigon, but this had fallen through. The third agreement was with the Sturgeon Falls Pulp Company. It called for the investment of \$1,000,000 and the production of 30,000 tons of pulp annually. The result of the bargain was that the population of Sturgeon Falls had rapidly increased, and settlers were taking up locations on the adjoining land in order to take advantage of the market thus created. The question was, should the Government stop here? Had anything occurred in connection with these agreements to show that a mistake or blunder had been committed? The Premier answered these questions in the negative, and declared there had been no failure of results, except perhaps in the case of the Nipigon company.

Some Good Features.

The Government had reason to assume that inasmuch as the three previous contracts were unanimously ratified, the present bargain would also meet with unanimous approval, more particularly as it was a better one for the Province than the others. Pine and all hardwoods were excluded from the agreement, and the woods to be cut were limited to spruce, poplar and jack pine. The first agreement was with American capitalists, the Sturgeon Falls agreement with English