

Price also read several resolutions passed by various Boards of Trade, in which the same view was taken as to the duty of the Government in the matter. Messrs. Parry, Parnell, Cockshutt, Gordon, Snider, Smith and Marshall addressed the members of the Cabinet in support of the request as embodied in the various resolutions. In reply Premier Ross referred to the successful experiments made by the Department of Agriculture. As a result of those experiments and the report of the commissioners sent to the State of Michigan, as well as the growing demand from the farmers, the Government had decided to aid the industry. A bill would be brought down soon and its terms made known. He did not know that the grant to be made would be so high as \$100,000, as had been asked for and suggested in several of the resolutions. The bonus could not be given direct to the farmer, but the Government would safeguard the interests of that class. He thought they should provide for the factories paying the farmer \$4 per ton for beets for the first year of the period over which Government aid was given, and after that \$4 per ton and pro rata for the amount of saccharine matter. Other questions would also have to be considered, but in any event he thought the Government's measures, when fully announced in the bill to be brought

down, would be found to be satisfactory.

Requests From Haliburton.

A deputation from the County of Haliburton waited upon the Government yesterday morning and asked that assistance be given in the matter of opening colonization roads, and in giving the Town of Minden railway connection with the Grand Trunk and the I. B. & O. Railways. At present Minden is twelve miles away from the nearest railway station, Irondale Junction, and the deputation asked that the usual grant of \$3,000 per mile be given for a branch line between the two points. The spokesmen stated that Minden had a splendid waterpower, which, without proper railway facilities to and from the town, would continue to lie idle. The line would also aid in the development of navigation on the upper waters of the Trent. The deputation consisted of Messrs. Thos. Graham, Warden of Haliburton; Wm. Hartle, Dr. Curry, J. Mortimer, J. H. Delamere, County Clerk, and R. J. McLaughlin, solicitor. They were assured that the matter would receive proper consideration. Later the same gentlemen were introduced by Mr. Carnegie, M.P.P., to the Minister of Education, and asked him to increase the grants to the schools in the county. Mr. Harcourt promised to give his decision at an early date.

Grants to Veterans of '66.

Veterans of 1866 are interested in the information conveyed in the speech from the throne, that their services would be recognized by the Ontario Government. The bill has not yet been drawn, but it is understood to be the Government's intention to set apart certain unorganized townships where

the veterans may select a quarter-section of land, as in the case of the South African veterans. It may be mentioned that the veterans of 1885 were similarly treated by the Dominion Government several years ago.

No Cut in Rates.

The Lake and Rail Association, representing Canadian railway and steamship companies, is understood to have declined the request of the Ontario Government for a reduction in the settlers' rate from Toronto to Port Arthur. The present single fare is \$9.85 all round, an increase of \$1 over 1899. The association contend that the margin of profit is now so small that a further cut is out of the question.

Prizes for Beet-growing.

The prizes for the most successful growers of sugar beets in the three Provincial tests last summer will be distributed on the following dates:—Aylmer, February 12; Welland, February 13; Newmarket, February 14. Mr. James G. Hamilton, Vice-President of the American Beet Sugar Company, New York, will speak at each of the meetings. Hon. Mr. Davis, who was instrumental in securing the tests in North York, and who has followed the experiments there with a lively interest, will be present at the Newmarket meeting, as will also Prof. Shuttleworth of the Ontario Agricultural College, who conducted the tests.

Press Gallery Officers.

The annual meeting of the Press Gallery was held yesterday afternoon, when the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. H. C. Charlesworth of The Mail and Empire; Vice-President, Mr. M. O. Hammond, The Globe; Secretary, Mr. R. M. English, Evening Telegram; Committee, Mr. C. Fessey, The World; Mr. W. Blue, The News; Mr. J. F. Kyle, Evening Star.

Notes.

The oath of allegiance has now been taken by all but about a score of the members.

The Conservatives held a well-attended caucus yesterday morning in the Public Accounts Committee room. Mr. Whitney announced subsequently that it was merely a "friendly fellowship meeting."

Mr. Ferguson, the member for Kent, is quite ill at his home, and, it is reported, may not be able to appear during this session.