

average. The work of the officials and staff is commended. Complete details from all the asylums are given, with much instructive information as to the assigned causes for insanity, nativity of inmates, etc. Dr. Clark, Medical Superintendent of the Toronto Asylum, also contributes an interesting article dealing with popular delusions about the insane, in which he combats the very prevalent theory that insanity is purely a mental disease. He contends that it is always a bodily disease, and that mental or moral perturbations are occasions, not causes, of brain disease.

#### Want Local Abattoirs.

A deputation comprising several gentlemen from Fergus waited on the Premier, Hon. Mr. Gibson and Hon. Mr. Latchford yesterday afternoon and asked for assistance in the establishment of an abattoir and cold-storage system. They had been attracted by the Premier's statements regarding a public abattoir, and in discussing that proposal said they considered a score or so of local abattoirs would be of much more service than one large Provincial concern. They also pointed out that it cost 37 per cent. of the price of cattle at Fergus to ship them from that point to Liverpool. Mr. G. D. S. Hill, a brother of Mr. J. J. Hill, the famous railway magnate, was the spokesman for the party.

#### Petitions Received.

Oxford and Lambton County Councils petition that the public school leaving examination be given a prominent and distinct place in the public school system of the Province.

The Townships of North Dumfries, Blenheim, Loudon, Cavan, Thorah, Innisfil and Hamilton ask that no change be made by which County Councils will be enabled to control the roads.

The County Council of Welland petition for the amendment of the Provincial game laws so as to coincide with those of New York State respecting the shooting of kaween, sheldrake and whistler ducks.

Several municipalities request the amendment of the municipal act so as to make those who solicit orders from house to house pay a license.

Welland County Council wants it provided that no Grand Jury be summoned until ten days before the sitting of court, and then only when business is known to be ready for the Grand Jury.

#### Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Little gives notice of this resolution for Monday:—That in consideration of the fact that agriculture is the chief industry of the Province of Ontario, and that a large tract of fertile land in new Ontario is still unoccupied, this House is of the opinion that the appointment of a Committee on Agriculture and Colonization would advance the interests of agriculture and assist in the settlement of new Ontario, such committee to be considered as one of the standing committees of this House.

Mr. Graham will inquire on Friday if it is the intention of the Government

to make provision, in whole or in part, for furnishing free text books to the pupils of the public and separate schools.

#### College is Prosperous.

The annual report of the Ontario Agricultural College is now in the printer's hands. It shows that the past year has been the most prosperous since the college was established in 1874. The enrolled attendance during the year was 259 students in the college, in addition to which there were 84 students in the special dairy course. President Mills was in the city yesterday, and conferred with the department on the work for the current year.

#### Change at Institute for the Blind.

Dr. Sinclair, physician at the Ontario Institute for the Blind, Brantford, has resigned, and Dr. John Marquis of that city has been appointed to the position.

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