

per arrangements were made with the railways. Given these conditions, the industry in this country should be a sure success.

#### The Legislature's Duty.

With those facts, what was the duty of the Legislature? They had in the past spent considerable sums to develop the fruit, dairy and other branches of agriculture, and the iron industry by bounties. Was this industry worthy of their consideration in a similar manner? We could produce 100,000,000 pounds of sugar per year in this Province. To do that would mean that \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000, which is now paid to other countries for our sugar, would be put in circulation here. We had passed laws to compel the manufacture of sawlogs and pulpwood in this country; but at present we had to export our beets to the other side to have them manufactured. The Government had, therefore, decided that some encouragement should be given. Their plan was to set apart \$75,000 per year for three years, to be paid in bounties, half a cent per pound for the first year, quarter of a cent for the second and third years; \$4 per ton to be paid the farmer the first year for all beets, and for the other two years \$4 and such additional price at the same price as would correspond to the proportion of saccharine matter above 12 per cent.

So far as he was personally concerned, he was anxious that the industry should go forward, because he believed that the development of the agricultural resources of the Province had only just commenced. They had been talking of new Ontario, with its boundless resources and its illimitable possibilities, but they should not forget old Ontario, and must see to it that its progress was not allowed to lag. He believed that the industry had a bright future in this country.

The bill passed its second reading without discussion.

#### Bills in Committee.

The House went into committee on Government bills, the following being reported:—

Mr. Harcourt—To consolidate and amend the acts respecting public schools, the Education Department and the high schools and collegiate institutes, all of which have been previously explained. A further amendment, however, was introduced in regard to the high schools act by providing that the inaugural meetings of Boards of Education be held on the third Thursday in January.

#### Repeals Scrap-iron Law.

The Premier—To amend the supplementary revenue act of 1899. This repeals the so-called scrap-iron assessment, and makes it clear that mutual insurance companies are not assessable under the act.

Hon. Mr. Stratton—To amend the Ontario companies act. This provides that the annual meeting of companies doing business in Ontario, and whose shareholders reside outside of the Province, may be held at the place where the majority of such shareholders reside; authorizes the Provincial Secretary to give to new companies names

of companies which are practically out of existence, and makes other amendments to the act.

The Attorney-General—To amend the Ontario election act by providing punishment for personation of deputy returning officers, miscounting of ballots, fraudulent returns, etc.

#### Income From Chinese Tax.

At the evening session the estimates were taken up. Colonel Matheson, on an item under immigration, criticized the amount of revenue, \$4,137, received as 25 per cent. of the per capita tax collected on 350 Chinamen who entered Ontario in the last seven years. He thought the number of Chinamen for whom allowance was made was too small, and said that British Columbia received \$47,000 revenue from the Dominion from this source last year.

The Premier replied that it would be a very difficult matter to ascertain how many Chinamen entered Ontario, as the tax was collected at the port of entry in British Columbia.

Discussing the special grants for agricultural purposes, Colonel Matheson thought the utility of a remount station would be enhanced by giving prizes to young men for riding at the Horse Show.

#### Character of Country Fairs.

Mr. Kidd (Carleton) criticized the grants of about \$70,000 to district agricultural societies. Many of them were not giving proper return for the grants, and the quality of Exhibitions was depreciating. Hon. Mr. Dryden admitted that many societies had taken up the circus feature too largely, but thought the success of the Winter Fair at Guelph was evidence that a properly conducted Exhibition would be a great success.

Mr. Duff (West Simcoe) considered that some improvement could be made in the management of the farm and experimental departments of the Agricultural College. Mr. Monteith (South Perth), as a graduate of the college, said the age at which students were admitted might be raised. He thought that while theory was all very well, the greatest success should be laid on the practical side of the work of the future farmer.

On the public works estimates Hon. Mr. Latchford, in reply to Col. Matheson, said some changes were contemplated in the chamber with a view to improving the hearing facilities, particularly in the Press Gallery. On the item of \$52,750 for the Cobourg Asylum he explained that the building was now in a forward condition and should be completed by October.

Col. Matheson questioned the detail of \$1,000 for a site for superintendent's residence and asked that the item stand, which was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.30.

#### Notices of Motion.

Mr. Conmee gives notice of a bill to amend the act respecting master and servant.

Mr. Ross will move that on and after Monday next the Government business shall have precedence, with the exception of private bills.