

Mr. BLACKWOOD expressed the satisfaction he felt at the fact that an Agricultural Journal was to be published henceforth in this province. He had no doubt that it would be found most beneficial in its effects upon the large class engaged in agricultural operations in this country. Hitherto they had wanted such a publication sadly, and had been obliged to send abroad for such.

After a few remarks from Hon. Mr. McFarlane upon the importance of agricultural journals as a means of disseminating information upon that important subject,

Mr. LOCKE said that they were constantly told that the farming population of the country were the most influential and the most intelligent of any class, and yet they were constantly requiring aid in some form or other. Here they had a recommendation to furnish them with journals at a low cost. He thought this was unfair. No branch of trade or industry should be stimulated at the expense of another, and the fishermen, the lawyers, or the mechanics, had as much right to their journal at the public expense as the agricultural class.

Mr. PARKER advocated the importance of disseminating the fullest information in respect to improved stock, and other agricultural matters.

After a few further remarks the report was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON, from the Committee on Private Bills, reported the following: To incorporate the Acadia Coal Mining Company, with a few verbal amendments; To incorporate the Waverly Gold Mining Company, the Stone Cutters' and Masons' Society, and the Royal Sussex Lodge of Freemasons, without amendments.

PROGRESS OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that he had been for some time anxiously waiting in the hope that some business of a more important character than that which had already engaged their attention, would have been laid on the table of the House. There was no time during the whole session more favourable for the consideration and discussion of important measures than the first few weeks; and although they had now been nearly three weeks in session, he regretted to be obliged to state that but small progress had been made in the public business. He would like to enquire of the government when they intended to bring down the important question of Education, promised in the Governor's speech. He was quite sure that the government would acquit him of any hostile spirit in urging upon them the necessity of having this subject brought early under the consideration of the House. There was no question (not even excepting the great subject of Federation), which had agitated the public mind to such an extent, as the position of the common schools of the country; and he trusted, therefore, that the government would agree with him in the propriety of submitting this measure without any unnecessary delay.

Hon. Pro. Sec'y, did not think that they were open to the charge of spending much time unnecessarily; every moment had been occupied—and honourable gentlemen knew that during the first part of the session, when a large number of petitions were received, and reports read upon important subjects, it was

impossible to have very extended sittings. The House had just been listening to a report on the important subject of the Agriculture of the Country and he had been waiting patiently for the opportunity of presenting the report of the superintendent of Education. He was in the judgment of the House when he stated the public documents had been submitted as rapidly as the House was ready for them. In reply to the enquiry of the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Archibald) he would state that the government would be prepared at an early day to submit a measure upon the subject of Education; at the same time he need hardly remind hon gentlemen that upon a question of such an important nature as this, some time was necessary to enable the government to obtain information as to the past working of the law. In the meantime he laid upon the table the report of the superintendent of Education, which goes fully into the subject.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that he did not wish to draw comparisons with other sessions. His object was solely to facilitate the public business. It was quite evident that if other more important business had been before the House, so much time would not have been occupied in the various discussions that had arisen; and while he admitted the importance of the Agricultural question, he did not think they would have had such an extended discussion upon that at that time, if other business had been before the House. He repeated that he was borne out in the statement that the public business had not been as rapidly advanced as the interests of the country demanded. He knew of no reason why the business could not be transacted in forty days, which was the period formerly assigned for a session, and now they had consumed a third of that time, with very little to show for it. He was happy to hear that, at all events, one of the measures promised in the speech would be submitted at an early day, and he trusted that the experience of the past year would be brought to bear upon the legislation of this session, as regards this most important question.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL denied that less business had been got through with than in former sessions. In some sessions they had not passed the answer to the Address at that period, and he thought if any one would compare the Journals with those of past years they would find that as much work had been done up to this time, as in any session for the last ten years. Having dealt last session with the Revised Statutes, and thus disposed of a great many subjects that generally engaged the attention of the house, it followed that the number of questions to be submitted this year would be largely diminished. As to the question of the school law he would remark that as the government had to collect information as to the practical working of the system in the localities in which it had been tried, it was impossible for them to have dealt with it at an earlier period. He would say further that the subject had engaged the most earnest consideration of the government, and when it came down to the house he hoped it would receive that attention its importance demanded.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL had no doubt that other gentlemen would approach the consideration of the subject in as fair a spirit as the hon. Atty. General. As regards the