

very little effect, yet as only two or three days remained it would have been easy for a single member by a pertinacious opposition to have thrown the whole measure overboard. Hon. Mr. Ferguson, who was heartily in favor of the entire measure, thought it better to separate the Bill and pass the part relating to the Board, than to run the risk of losing the whole in the Lower House. The result was that the first twelve sections of the Bill as printed in the June No. of the *Agriculturist* were passed with but few of the necessary verbal alterations and the remainder dropped. Hon. Mr. Price took charge of the measure in the Lower House, and on the defects of the Bill in its then shape being pointed out by Mr. McDougall, the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands promised to introduce such amendments as were necessary to set the Board in operation, leaving the remainder of the Bill for consideration next session. Mr. McDougall accordingly adapted the Bill to the present Societies, and added the clauses with slight modifications, requiring annual reports from County Societies and granting a sum of money for the use of the Board. These amendments would have enabled the Board to commence operations, and at the next session the whole machinery might have been completed. But Mr. Price afterwards stated that if any amendments were made which would render it necessary to send the Bill to the Upper House for concurrence, it would be lost for want of time. He therefore carried it through its several readings without any amendments—not even granting the small pitance that was asked to enable the Board to *do* any thing. This is the way the Legislature sought to promote improvement in agriculture! Salaries of public officers were increased, who, in our opinion, might be dispensed with altogether; pensions were granted, in one case, to a person already a pensioner; £15,000 were granted for a site and *buildings* for a Normal School, to be expended at the discretion of irresponsible parties, when one third of the money would have been amply sufficient; public money was voted without stint for objects of little use to the people of Canada,—thousands upon thousands,—as if the golden washings of a Sierra Nevada were deposited in all our vallies, yet *one* thousand pounds a-year to be expended in collecting and diffusing information relating to that branch of productive industry on which *all* our wealth depends—expended by a popularly organized Board making a yearly return to the Legislature of their labors and expenditures could not be thought of, or voted, for want of time!!

We leave the farmers of Canada to their own reflections on this subject. There is a cause for

the contempt with which their interests are treated, and they have it in their power to remedy such a state of things. We make no reflections against any political party, for as our Legislature is at present constituted, all parties there appear to us pretty much alike. The Legislature is in the hands of place-hunting, time-serving, and upon all questions affecting the industrial pursuits of the people, *ignorant* lawyers. Until a greater number of intelligent, practical, patriotic men, whose interests are directly identified with those of the productive classes, are returned to Parliament, we shall have to complain of extravagance in every thing that will benefit office-seekers and non-producers, and the utmost indifference and parsimony in every thing that would advance the interests of the great mass of the people.

As to the Board of Agriculture, incomplete and incongruous as the law is, we would recommend the County Societies to nominate seven persons as members of the Board at their next annual meeting, and transmit their names as the law directs. The act says that the "Directors" are to "elect seven persons at their first regular meeting next after the annual meeting of the Society." This was altered, so that the *Society* might at its annual meeting elect the Board; but the amendment was not attended to. The simplest plan will be for each County Society as at present organized, to appoint at the annual meeting all its officers and active members "Directors" and after the business of the meeting is over, let these Directors hold their "first regular meeting" and agree upon the members of the Board at once. The probability is that during the next session the measure will be completed and a grant made for the use of the Board, but in the mean time it will be a step in the right direction to organize the Board as soon as possible.

We had nearly forgotten to mention the name of the member of the Lower House who has the honor (!) of defeating the Bill as introduced in the Legislative Council. Mr. Ferguson, the member for Waterloo, is entitled to the credit of defeating it, and the ministry to the credit of neglecting the whole measure till the last moment. This gentleman although of the *legal* fraternity, evidently did not understand the present law relating to Agricultural Societies, and he was equally at fault as to the effect of the proposed Bill. He declared in the presence of Hon. Mr. Ross, Mr. Buckland, and the writer, that by the present law township Agricultural Societies are not *entitled* to a share of the Government grant! That he was "tired of answering that question." The act says in plain words, "a *proportion* of the District bounty *shall* and may be granted to each County Riding or *township* Agricultural