

where spurious, and given by parties not legally qualified to vote as Directors of the Association, and therefore that the result obtained by the voting as aforesaid, was not a lawful and just decision of the question then submitted. That your Committee, with the view of giving additional prespicuity to this report, annex hereto and embody herewith a schedule, exhibiting in detail a statement of the votes recorded and the particular facts as found by your Committee affecting their validity. That your Committee would respectfully urge upon the Council the expediency of passing a by-law regulating the voting upon similar occasions, and prescribing the precise form of credentials which a voter shall be required to produce before recording his vote, as to ensure more regularity in these particulars for the future.

Your Committee respectfully suggest that your Secretary be admonished to keep the books containing the minutes of the different meetings of the Association with scrupulous exactitude, and that he to be held responsible that the same are not to be tampered with or defaced. That your Committee, adverting to the schedule appended hereto, would draw the attention of the Council to the fact of their being forty-two votes recorded at the said meeting as having been given by parties who have produced no credentials whatever of qualification, the Committee in consequence having no ready means of estimating the validity of such votes; and it is further noticed by your Committee that even in those cases where credentials have been produced by the voters, such credentials for the most part afford no evidence of the parties therein named having been appointed as delegates by their respective societies according to the Statute—such credentials only go to show that the parties therein named had been nominated or appointed by particular members or office-holders of their respective societies. Also in reference to certain Horticultural and Mechanics' Institute Societies, represented at the said meeting, your Committee are uninformed as to whether the requisite formalities have been complied with in order to entitle them to such representations and report in the premises, assuming all such societies to have been legally constituted.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. SKEAD, Chairman.
S. WHITE,
JOHN WALTON
ANDREW WILSON,
JAMES J. FARLEY.

Mr. RYKERT said the Act did not provide that presidents or vice-presidents must bring certificates.

Prof. BUCKLAND remarked that a blank circular would be sent this year to all the associations for the purpose of securing a list of their officers.

Mr. MACDONALD thought that according to the Act the delegates should be required to bring certificates.

Mr. RYKERT suggested that the Department of Agricultural be requested to furnish the Council with a list of the officers of the branch associations.

Hon. Mr. SKEAD pointed out a number of irregularities and illegalities in many of the credentials that had been sent in previous to the annual meeting of directors. He alleged that the list of delegates had been tampered with, as he had carefully examined it at five o'clock on the evening of the day of the annual meeting, and found only 91 votes

on it, and yet no less than 128 votes were recorded when the vote was taken

Mr. RYKERT contended that the Council had no legal right to pass a by-law regulating the voting at the meetings of the Association. That matter belonged to the Association. However, to bring the matter properly before them he would move the adoption of the report.

Mr. MACDONALD seconded the motion. Considerable discussion followed. It was unanimously conceded that some more stringent regulations respecting the manner of voting were needed, but it was held that was a matter for a meeting of the whole Association.

Mr. RYKERT withdrew his motion, and the committee agreed to amend that clause of their report by striking out the reference to the passing of a by-law and recommending that some steps be taken to regulate the voting at the annual meetings, and that a precise form of credentials be prescribed for voters.

The report was then adopted.

Mr. RYKERT moved, seconded by Mr. Young, that the Secretary be instructed to apply to the Minister of Agriculture for a list of the officers of the branch associations, and that he be further instructed to write to the several agricultural societies requesting that all delegates to the annual meeting be furnished with proper credentials, at the same time furnishing them with the blank forms. Carried.

The Council then adjourned till four o'clock.

The Council re-assembled at 4 o'clock

The SECRETARY read a communication from Mr. Weld, asking the Council to petition the Legislature for assistance to enable him to carry out his emporium plan or to accommodate him for the same purpose. The Council decided that, while appertaining Mr. Weld's exertions, they did not feel themselves at liberty to advise the Legislature in the matter.

In answer to the President,

Mr. GRAHAM, the Treasurer, said the Denison case was not yet decided by the Courts.

The Committee on Accounts reported, recommending the payment of certain accounts. Other accounts from newspapers for advertisements not ordered where referred to the Council. On motion it was resolved not to pay these accounts,

The report of the Committee was adopted.

The TREASURER, Mr. Graham, presented the following abstract of accounts up to the 1st December:—

Balance on hand 1st Jan, 1870..... \$1,649 97
Receipts since that date—

Miscellaneous Accounts..... 771 54
Prize Account..... 112 00
Rents..... 1,000 00
Government Grant..... 10,000 00

Exhibition Receipts—

Secy. on account of subscriptions..... \$900 00
Do, on account of booths 1,510 00
Entrance Fees at Gates 17,454 81
Forage sold..... 464 65
Other Items..... 52 00

On account of Denison..... 250 00

\$34,164 67