

## SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

On January 17th the Honourable Martin Burrell gave notice of the following proposed Resolution:—

'Resolved. That it is expedient to provide that a sum not exceeding \$10,000,000 be appropriated and paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada during the period of ten years, beginning with the year ending March 31, 1914, for the purpose of aiding and advancing the farming industry by instruction in agriculture, including the work carried on by veterinary colleges.'

On January 24th the Resolution was reported and agreed to, and Mr. Burrell thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 103 for the granting of aid for the advancement of agricultural instruction in the provinces, speaking as follows:—

Mr. Speaker, the right honourable gentleman who now leads this House (Mr. Borden) stated to the people of Canada on August 14, 1911, that if he were placed in charge of the Government of the country he would provide for 'the granting of liberal assistance to the provinces for the purpose of supplementing and extending the work of agricultural education, and for the improvement of agriculture.' The Bill which I am asking leave to introduce is intended to be a prompt and complete fulfilment of that promise.

When introducing a measure for the assistance of agriculture last session, I pointed out that it was impossible to move wisely in such a matter without first having a thorough investigation of the whole subject made by a competent man, and in appointing Dr. C. C. James for this purpose the Government felt they were taking the right step in the direction of a constructive agricultural programme. Since that time Dr. James, whose long experience in agricultural matters and whose wide acquaintance with the men who in Canada are solving agricultural problems peculiarly fitted him for the work, has freely and fully consulted with the various provincial governments and with the men in charge of the various agricultural institutions of the country. His task has been to ascertain in what way the federal authorities could best assist the provinces in strengthening and developing Canada's great basic industry. I have been in constant touch with Dr. James during the past year, and I gladly here bear testimony to the valuable character of his services. It has been customary to follow investigations such as this, or of other kinds, by elaborate reports more or less valuable, which too often have found a long resting place in the pigeon hole of a department—unacted upon, 'unwept, unhonoured and unsung.' There is a homely old proverb that 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating,' and the result of the work which has been carried on and of the careful thought given to the study of this whole question will be found in the terms of the Bill which I have the honour to introduce to the House.

There has been in the Speech from the Throne a reference to the form which such a measure should take, viz.: such assistance to agricultural education as would involve continuity of action, and already there have come to me from the principals of the leading Canadian universities, from the heads of agricultural institutions, and from men holding office in various provincial governments, both Liberal and Conservative, many expressions of sympathetic interest in and approval of the suggested line of action