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## THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

In the Toronto daily papers of Feb. 24th and 25th there appeared very full accounts of the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture at its last meeting. These reports were too close upon the publication of our March number for us to make use of them for its columns, and therefore though somewhat after date, we take up the subject now.

The Hon. David Christie has regained his position as President of the Board, a very significant circumstance, indicating as it does, a return to the old rut of procedure and management. The other official appointments were, Hon. Jas. Skead, Vice-President; Hugh C. Thomsen, Secretary; and Geo. Graham, Treasurer.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The following report, for the year 1869, was then presented and read:—

*To Hon. John Carling, Commissioner of Agriculture, &c.*

The Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario beg leave to present the following brief report of their proceedings during the past year:—

The late Board of Agriculture, constituted under the Act 22 Vic., Chap. 32, held two meetings since the commencement of the year 1869, viz: on January 6th and January 27th. These meetings were principally occupied in consideration of the state of the accounts of the late Treasurer, Mr. Denison, and in interviews and negotiations with him in reference to the balance due by him, which appeared from his accounts, as subsequently proved by the Auditors, to be \$13,283 85. Against this sum Mr. Denison charged \$5,138 commission, which the Board did not allow. The Board obtained satisfactory mortgage security for the sum of \$8,000, leaving the balance to be settled by litigation.

The existing Council, organized under the Act 31 Vic., Chap. 23, of the Ontario Legislature, met for the first time at Toronto, on the 24th Feb. last, consisting of the following members, viz: G. O. McDonnell, Cornwall; Hon. J. Skead, Ottawa; Andrew Wilson, Maitland; Edwin Mallory, Napanee; John Walton, Peterboro'. Geo. Graham, Brampton; Jas. Cowan, Waterloo; J. C. Rykert, St. Catharines; Hon. David Christie, Paris; Robt. Gibbons, Goderich; Lionel E. Shipley, Falkirk; Stephen White, Charing Cross. *Ex-Officio* members—Hon. John Carling, Commissioner of Agriculture; Dr. Beatty, President Mechanic's Institute Association; W. H.

Mills, President Fruit Grower's Association; George Buckland, Professor of Agriculture, Toronto University; Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education.

At this first meeting the Council was duly organized. Mr. Mallory was appointed President, Mr. Shipley, Vice-President, and Mr. Graham, Treasurer. A resolution was passed requiring satisfactory security to be given by the Treasurer. A By-law was passed appointing an Executive Committee; and another By-law to regulate the duties of the Treasurer.

The Council held five subsequent meetings during the year 1869 and the commencement of the present year, viz: at London, on March 31st; at Toronto, June 30th; at London, Sept. 18th to 25th; at Toronto, on Dec. 1st, and again on Jan. 11th; and the Executive Committee held their meetings, viz: at Toronto, on March 17th; at Toronto, Aug 11th; and at London, Sept. 8th. The following is a brief resume of some of the more important items of business transacted at the several meetings. The Treasurer furnished ample and satisfactory security—\$20,000—for the due discharge of his duties, which was accepted by the Council. A correspondence has taken place with the University authorities in reference to the house on the late experimental farm, and arbitrators have been appointed to determine the value thereof to be paid to the Council by the University. The prize list of the Exhibition was carefully revised, the amount of the prizes being increased in some of the more important classes, and the rules amended where necessary, to make the working of the Exhibition more satisfactory. The large upper hall in the Agricultural Hall Building has been utilized by leasing it to Mr. James Fleming for purposes of public meetings, &c, at a rent of \$200 for five years, but terminable at any time at the option of the Council. Interviews were held with the Local Committee at London in reference to the accommodation required for the Exhibition; which, although serious difficulties at one time appeared to intervene, were at length completed satisfactorily. A memorial was adopted, in view of serious dangers threatened by contagious cattle diseases, petitioning the Dominion Government for some legislative provision to regulate the transport of live stock. Standing Committees of the Council were appointed to supervise the various departments of the Exhibition, thus ensuring the more satisfactory working of each department. A committee was appointed to superintend the printing of the Association, and the printing was let by public tender, by which means an economical and satisfactory execution of that work has been obtained. An Insurance was