

in \$10,000, and four others in \$5,000 each. Prof. Croft was appointed consulting chemist; Mr. A. Smith, veterinary surgeon and referee; Mr. J. Fleming, seedsman; Mr. W. A. Cooley, general superintendent of the Provincial Exhibition; Mr. J. E. Pell, superintendent of the arts and manufactures department; and Messrs. J. Fleming and W. H. Mills, superintendents of the grain, roots, and horticultural departments. The auditors' report was read, showing a balance of \$14,283.87 remaining to be accounted for to the Association by its late treasurer, Mr. R. L. Denison. A mortgage payable in three months had been obtained securing this amount, less \$5,138 claimed by Mr. Denison as per centage. An interview was had with Mr. Denison, which resulted in a prospect of litigation in enforcement of his per centage claim. If this takes place further investigation will be had of the accounts, a thing of which there is much need. A communication was read from the Solicitor of the Association giving it as his opinion that the mortgage, though a second, was ample security for the amount covered by it. It was ordered that a monthly statement should be made up by the Treasurer of the finances of the Association, and published in the agricultural journals of the province. A by-law was passed appointing the President, Messrs. Christie, Walton, Rykert, and Cowan an Executive Committee. It was agreed that the Annual Provincial Exhibition be held September 20-24.

The above is a brief summary of the business done by the Council, beside which there seems to have been much caucusing, altercation, and personality indulged in. Mr. Christie took occasion to reiterate his complaints as to the treatment the old Board had met with from the Commissioner of Agriculture and others. Mr. Denison evidently considered himself a much-abused individual, and there was extreme sensitiveness all round. No admission of short-coming was made, no further scrutiny of the old accounts provided for, but the predominant feeling seemed to be that it was a great shame so snug and nice an official nest had been stirred up. We much mistake public sentiment if all this high-toned justification and self-praise is allowed to pass unchallenged. Certainly the circumstances of the case do not sustain it. We

can only say that our first impressions of the affair are confirmed. The funds of the Association have been very improperly dealt with by the late Treasurer, with the cognizance and complicity at least of the late President and Secretary. No satisfactory explanation or apology has been given, the whole thing has been huddled up as far as possible, censure dealt out to those who have sought to protect the public interest, and official responsibility evaded. Even those who at first sought to screen the old Board, are dissatisfied with the proceedings of the Council, and the end is not yet.

THE AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNTS.

Seeing that in a manner almost defiant, the fullest publicity and closest scrutiny have been challenged for the financial and other doings of the late Board of Agriculture, it may not be amiss to note a few things on which a little more light might be advantageously thrown, if those who have the means of illumination in their hands would condescend to use them for the purpose.

So far as we know, the public has never been informed on what grounds the late President and Secretary considered themselves justified in becoming parties to a note on which money was borrowed when the Treasurer's books showed a balance far exceeding the amount of that note. We desiderate from officers who court enquiry into their acts, a statement of reasons for making and several times renewing the note in question.

Inasmuch as the late Treasurer has evidently been in the habit of taking care that good money should not go unused, we confess to a little curiosity as to what amount of Association funds was actually in the hands of the Bank of Upper Canada at the date of its failure. Was the entire balance held by the Treasurer then on deposit? It was, to say the least, a strange and unlucky conjunction, if at that particular time and then only, the Treasurer's balance was in the bank.

If we take a look through the Parliamentary return of last session, several minor beauties in the accounts meet the eye. We cull one here and there:—