

beneficial effect by showing the people what each of the Provinces can do. For instance, if the Minister were to stipulate that prizes should be offered for wheat, or pease, or cattle from British Columbia and the other Provinces, it would tend to bring together a large amount of produce of one kind and another; it would educate the people, by enabling them to compare the products of different Provinces. It would show, for instance, how far Ontario is ahead of Quebec, how far Quebec is ahead of the Maritime Provinces, and possibly how far British Columbia was behind the others in the matter of stock, cereals, root crops or other produce. If people in one Province were desirous of selling out and going to another, they could get a good idea, by going to the exhibition, what Province would suit them best, and it might be the means of some of our people going to British Columbia, for instance, instead of to the other side of the line. At present, I do not think the object intended is accomplished. I know there are many people who make a business of attending exhibitions, and at present it is an acknowledged fact, that when you have attended one of these exhibitions, whether in Montreal, or Toronto, or Ottawa, you see all that is to be seen. With regard to Stratford, I say it is undoubtedly the centre of a very desirable agricultural district, and it would be as well entitled to a share of the money as Sherbrooke, Montreal and other places. If you are going to distribute the money that way you had better divide it all round. I know towns in my own section which would be glad to get \$100 as a help to their shows. In that way, by comparing the products of the different Provinces, the people would get educated, and competition between the different Provinces in the matter of products would be encouraged. But in dividing the money as you are doing, you are not going to accomplish anything.

Mr. HESSON. I am somewhat surprised at the remarks of the two gentlemen who have spoken last, especially those of the hon. member for North Wentworth (Mr. Bain), whose county has had the advantage of many a Dominion exhibition, and who now seems desirous of cutting all other places off. I do not think that is a fair spirit to exhibit. We all remember the fine exhibitions that have been held in Hamilton, the capital of the hon. gentleman's county. The last speaker says the grants have not accomplished any good. I differ from him in that. I think they have had the effect of developing stock of the very finest character. We have had exhibitors in Canada whose fame as the owners of stock has gone beyond the country. The hon. gentleman must admit that the aid granted has been an encouragement to those gentlemen to improve the quality of their stock, and if he has attended the exhibitions he must have marked the extraordinary improvement in the stock from time to time. That in itself is a sufficient answer to his statement. The proposition of the hon. gentleman, that stock should be brought from British Columbia, is most absurd, even if it should get the prize. I think our experience in the past, of the anxiety shown in different parts of the country, from time to time, to get the benefit of this expenditure, is of itself a sufficient justification for it.

Mr. McMULLEN. Of course the prize list would have to be arranged so that you would offer a prize for a certain article, the product of British Columbia or the product of the Maritime Provinces, and in that way you would attract exhibits from the different Provinces. If the money was divided in that way, say in connection with the Toronto Exhibition or in connection with an exhibition at Montreal or here, it would be of advantage. If you had to give \$10 for a bushel of wheat from British Columbia, it would still be an advantage, because it would let the people see what is raised there. But in arranging the list as you do, you

simply increase the prize list for the little district where the exhibition takes place. I hope the Minister of Agriculture takes a note of my suggestion, and if he acts on it I think we shall have an exhibition that will fairly represent the whole Dominion, and for which our people would be willing to grant the money.

Mr. WILSON. I think there is a fair chance of the hon. member for North Perth having the exhibition in his town, for I understand that the city of London has sold its exhibition grounds, and will not, therefore, be able to have any more exhibitions. I understand that the Military College is to be established on those grounds. I imagine that the Minister of Agriculture is the only person who has any property in the neighborhood of the city of London suitable for an exhibition ground, and as he is now an agriculturist, he will no doubt be anxious to retain his property. I, of course, have no hopes that the exhibition will go to the city of St. Thomas, although we could afford it every accommodation, because the county of Elgin sends two members of the Opposition to this House. My hon. friend asks where St. Thomas is. It is in Western Ontario, and London is a little to the north on its outskirts. But without any jesting, I think that as the city of London has now no fair grounds, the Minister should state that the hon. member for North Perth will certainly have an opportunity of having the exhibition in his locality.

Mr. MACMILLAN. I wish to call the attention of the hon. member for East Elgin to the fact that when the old exhibition grounds in London were disposed of, much more convenient grounds were secured, being within 200 or 300 yards of the railway station. What is known as Salter's Grove was selected by an overwhelming vote, and that property is kept for that purpose, and that purpose only. It will afford much more convenient grounds than those we had previously. The railway track runs by them, and the cars can be unloaded right alongside, whereas formerly all the exhibits had to be carted for a distance of a half or three-quarters of a mile. So that it will be seen that we have as good, if not better, grounds than we had before, and certainly more convenient.

Mr. CARLING. I am surprised that the charge should be made that some favoritism has been shown the city of London. The grant was given to London last year simply because the exhibition of Ontario was held there, and on no other account. It was given to London, as it has been given in previous years to cities in New Brunswick and Lower Canada. As the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has said, the very idea he suggested was carried out, because representatives from the Ontario Agricultural Association were sent to all the different Provinces to induce them to send exhibits to this exhibition. Every inducement was given, and a portion of the amount was devoted to reducing rates, so as to enable goods from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, to be sent forward at reduced rates.

Mr. ALLEN. The most central point in this Dominion, the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway steamers, for this exhibition, is the town of Owen Sound. We can in Owen Sound offer facilities above those offered in any outlying places such as the Lower Provinces, Stratford, Winnipeg, St. Thomas, London, Sherbrooke, or British Columbia, or any other place, and I sincerely hope the Government will decide on holding this year's exhibition in Owen Sound, especially as the corporation of that town is putting up an exhibition building at a cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000. We expect to be able to accommodate the whole Province in that thriving town.

Mr. McMULLEN. Can the Minister of Agriculture state what amount of exhibits were brought from the different Provinces to London last year?