

out any political view, and therefore he did not look at this matter in a political light. From his many years' experience as a farmer, he professed to know something about soils, and would therefore say, after visiting the proposed experimental farm two days previously, that he fully concurred in the sentiments, with regard to its soil, that were embodied in the report.

Mr. GRAHAM had some doubt about the land being malarious, but he thought the selection had been an unfortunate one. He considered the land unfit for the purpose for which it had been chosen.

Rev. Mr. BETHUNE said that he was surprised when he heard that the Government had made a choice of this land as the site of the experimental farm. He thought, however, that it would be well to have the farm near the city, because many things that would be required in the College must be purchased in Toronto; as well as because a saving could be effected in the salaries of professors by having the College near the educational institutions of this city. He would have preferred to have the report a little more moderate in tone, but he thought that a better site than the one that was chosen might have been purchased in the neighbourhood of Toronto.

Professor BUCKLAND said that the choice of the site had been limited to a radius of ten miles from the city of Toronto. He had favoured the selection of the land at Mimico on account of its locality. If the farm and college were situated at a distance from a railway they would not likely be visited very often by either the Commissioner of Agriculture or the public.

The report was then put, and was adopted *nem. con.*

Mr. SKEAD, who was out of the room at the time it was put, stated, on returning, that he had intended to vote against its adoption.

LEASE OF AGRICULTURAL HALL

Mr. GRAHAM reported on behalf of the committee that had been appointed to wait on the proprietors of the Agricultural Hall, with respect to leasing it again to the Agricultural and Arts Association, that the proprietors were willing to lease it to the Association for a term of ten years at \$1,000 per annum—\$200 a year more than was paid under the old lease. The committee recommended that the lease be accepted on these terms.

The report was adopted.

THE DENISON ESTATE.

Col. G. T. Denison, Jun., appeared before the Council, and on behalf of Col. R. L. Denison asked permission to sell the property of the last named gentleman on which the Association hold a mortgage, on condition that he pay the proceeds of the sale to the treasurer of the association before March next. The request was granted.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' PRIZE

Mr. YOUNG moved, seconded by Mr. CHOATE, "That the President and Treasurer be appointed a committee to invest the principal of the Prince of Wales' prize, \$800, and that they report their action at the next meeting of the Council." Carried.

MEMBERS' EXPENSES

Mr. YOUNG moved, seconded by Rev. Mr. Burnett,—"That as it is desirable that the sums paid to the members of this Council, as necessary expenses under the 17th section of the Agricultural and Arts Act, should be fixed and uniform, it be and is hereby resolved that the necessary expenses of each member attending the regular meetings of

the Council shall be considered to be \$3 for each day that the member is necessarily absent from home attending to the business of the Council, together with the amount of his railway fares in going and returning, and that the Treasurer shall make up and pay the amount of such expenses to the members at each meeting."

After some discussion the motion was put and lost.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM AGAIN.

At this stage of the proceedings,

Hon. A. MCKELLAR, Commissioner of Agriculture, entered the room and having received permission addressed the Council. He said that in asking them to examine the land out at Mimico his object was to ascertain the views, with regard to it as a site for an experimental farm, of those whom he looked upon as best qualified to offer an opinion in such a matter. The farm if it were bad land would prove a failure, and it would be creditable to the country if what was produced on it were taken as a criterion of what the Province could do in the way of agriculture. He had then come to trespass still further on the kindness of the Council. The Government had no interest in locating the college in any particular part of the country, but wished to choose the best possible site, and the one on which it would be the most likely to succeed. He wished to ask the Council if they would favour the Government by going to Guelph for the purpose of seeing some land in the vicinity of that town that had been offered to them as a site for the Agricultural College and experimental farm. If the Council could find a better site elsewhere he wished they would let the Government know where it was. Perhaps it would be well for the Government to postpone the building of the college until there was no doubt they had no doubt that they had found the best possible site. The Government did not intend to determine themselves where the college would be built, but to submit their choice to the House.

It was agreed that the Council should visit the land in the vicinity of Guelph to-day, in accordance with the request of the Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Council then adjourned.

Hamilton Township Farmers' Club.

A meeting of the Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club was held at Cobourg on the 17th of February, Peter Sidey, Esq., Cold-springs, President, in the chair.

The subject for discussion, "The advantages of Fairs, and the best method of managing a Spring Fair," was introduced by Mr. Alexander McDonald, who said:—"The plan of holding periodical Fairs for the sale of farm stock, fat cattle, grain, &c., has been for some time past in operation in certain localities of Canada, and I believe with the most satisfactory results. Such fairs have many advantages, and I would like to see them established all over the country. They bring buyers and sellers together, and give each an opportunity of doing business under the fairest possible circumstances. Buyers are saved the time and trouble of picking up cattle here and there, and sellers are subject to no uncertainties as to the ruling market price. Facilities for weighing fat cattle are

at hand, and both the local butcher and distant dealer can at once take care of their purchases. Besides the special business of the fair, a great many other matters can be attended to; nor is it the least advantage of such occasions that farmers, who, as a class, are greatly isolated, can compare notes and talk over matters of common interest. In the old country, fairs are absolutely essential to the system of farming carried on. There they always know where they can buy such stock as they want, and can depend on selling it for what it is worth at any Fair day. As things now are here, the farmer who feeds ten cattle or twenty sheep, is at the mercy of some local butcher. He cannot send them to a distant market with advantage, because he has not got a car-load of them; but if we had a monthly or quarterly Fair, we could sell small lots to dealers who were buying to ship, and there would be competition enough to secure us fair prices. Now, if a farmer has more feed than he wants, he does not know where to look for stock to eat it, and he is just as bad off if he has more stock than he wants; he must sell to some one who knows how he is situated, and who will try to get them for less than their actual value. I have now mentioned a few of the advantages of Fairs, and also a few of what, in my opinion, are the disadvantages we have to encounter for want of them, and in conclusion I trust that neither our farmers nor mechanics will be lacking in their efforts to make our Spring Fair on the 20th of March a great success. The trouble and expense of such efforts, which have for their object not only the good of the individual but the general welfare, is nothing to the satisfaction which every one must experience who contributes to an object so worthy, and I cannot but hope that some of our farmers, who have heretofore been lukewarm and stood aloof from us, will turn over a new leaf, and resolve now to come forward and help us to keep our proper place in the general improvement and progress we see going on all around us. I hope, and sincerely believe, that the day is not far distant when, instead of an annual spring Fair, we shall have quarterly, aye, even monthly Fairs, permanently established in this locality.

The discussion of the subject elicited from various speakers, among whom were Messrs. Pratt, Bourn, Lapp, McEvers, and Burnham, a unanimous opinion in favour of holding periodical Fairs, for the more ready sale and purchase of stock, exchange of seed grain, procuring implements, and other requirements of the farm.

The Chairman, in summing up, observed that these institutions were a great benefit to the farming community, not only for buying and selling stock, and similar objects, but also for the purpose of hiring help to assist in the labour of our farms. Fairs were greatly used for this purpose in many countries. He thought they would also