

4. They should have power to administer oaths and to prescribe from time to time such rules and regulations as may be necessary to accomplish the objects of their appointment.

5. They shall give public notice of the outbreak of any dangerous disease, and such practical directions for its avoidance as they may deem necessary.

6. They may either place such diseased cattle in quarantine, or cause them to be killed, as may seem necessary for the public protection, but in the latter case they shall cause an appraisal of such cattle to be made, and the county or State shall pay such proportion of the appraised value as may be provided by law.

Sec. II. The commissioners, or any assistant commissioners, located on the frontier of the State, shall, at such times as may be prescribed by the commissioners, have power to inspect all the animals brought into such State, whether by railroad cars, vessels or common roads, and shall have power to detain such railroad cars, vessels, drovers or animals on common roads long enough to make a proper inspection of them, for the purpose of ascertaining their sanitary condition.

2. No animal shall be permitted to enter the State which shall be diseased, and which such assistant commissioner, and which shall be of a nature of diffusing dangerous disease, or of injuring the health of the inhabitants, but an appeal shall be allowed to the majority of the commissioners in all such cases.

3. No train shall be allowed to proceed unless the animals contained therein have been supplied with food, water and rest, within twenty-four hours next preceding the time of such inspection.

4. All animals shall rest and have access to food and water for a similar period.

5. The railroad companies shall provide suitable yards for feeding, watering and resting the animals traveling on the trains, and for quarantine purposes, which shall be kept in a clean and wholesome condition, to the satisfaction of the commissioners.

6. Each train on leaving its point of departure shall have certificates signed by an assistant commissioner, which shall certify that all the animals therein were in a healthy condition at the time of departure, and also the exact time of its leaving, and such certificate and endorsements thereon of the time of resting and the time of departure of the train at subsequent resting and feeding places, shall be exhibited to the proper authorities whenever required.

7. Proper penalties should be inserted to prevent the bribery of officers charged with the execution of these provisions.

8. Proper penalties should also be provided for those who interfere with or resist the officers charged with the execution of these provisions.

### Board of Agriculture.

A meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held on Thursday, Jan. 7, to consider the action to be taken with reference to a communication from the Minister of Agriculture, on the subject of the accounts of the Board and of the Provincial Agricultural Association. A meeting of the Board had been held on the previous day, but nothing then was done, beyond taking steps to procure certain statements necessary to a proper elucidation of the question.

At the meeting on Thursday there were present:—Hon. David Christie, President of the Board; Hon. George Alexander, Professor Buckland, Dr. Beatty, J. C. Rykert, Esq., M.P.P.; and F. W. Stone, Esq.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE, having taken the chair, said:—It may be well that I should make a statement of this case, so far as it is known to the Board. On the 21st of December I received the following letter from the Commissioner of Agriculture:—

TORONTO, 23rd Dec., 1868.

To the Honorable David Christie, President Board of Agriculture.

SIR,—On the 3rd ultimo, I appointed Mr. Thomas White, of Hamilton, under the authority of the 7th section of the Agricultural Act of this Province, to make an enquiry into the books and accounts of the Agricultural Association and the Board of Agriculture, for the years 1867 and 1868, and to report a statement, in detail, of the receipts and expenditures for those years, with the assets and liabilities of the Board and Association.

"I saw this morning in receipt of Mr. White's report, and I am astonished to find by it that while the accounts showed, on the 30th of November last, a net cash balance to the credit of the Board of \$12,047 76, that amount is not available, and that Mr. Denison, the Treasurer, does not keep any Board account with any bank, and has never been called upon by the Board to furnish securities for the proper performance of his duties, or for the forthcoming of the funds of the Association.

"Mr. White reports that the Treasurer is prepared to give security for the repayment of the large balance due by him; and I have to request that you will take such immediate steps as may be necessary, either to have the balance deposited to the credit of the Board, in one of the chartered banks, or to have proper and ample security taken for the amount—such security to be satisfactory to this department.

"It is evident that until this is done, and securities given for the due administration of the funds in the future, I shall not be warranted in paying over the \$5,000 due on this year's government grant.

"Your early attention to the matter will greatly oblige,

"Your obedient servant,

"(Signed) JOHN CARLING,

"Commissioner of Agriculture.

To that communication, I replied stating that it would be submitted to the Board, but I could not myself take the responsibility of answering it in substance. As it contained very strange charges against the Treasurer, and, by implication, against the members of the Board, I thought it my duty at once, not only to the public, but to my colleagues and myself, to convene a meeting of the Board, on as early a day as possible after the receipt of the Commissioner's letter. Then judge of my surprise when, on coming to Toronto to attend that meeting, I found this one-sided report actually in print, and submitted to Parliament on the very day this Board was to meet, thus precluding the possibility of any statement on the part of the Board as to whether the contents of that report were true or false. I and several of my colleagues have been members of the Board since its commencement in 1851, and surely men who have labored assiduously for the last seventeen years in that capacity, to promote the interests of Agriculture, were entitled to some

consideration at the hands of the Minister of Agriculture. He certainly should not have allowed their character to be aspersed, by the publication of this report, without at least giving them the opportunity of stating the other side of the question. I come now to the report itself. I take it, that, so far as the Board is concerned, the *grossness* of the charges contained in it, is to be found in the following paragraph:—

"I had an interview with Mr. Denison, in which he stated that I had rightly understood him; that he had no account, in the name of the Board or the Association, with any bank, and had not had for many years, and that the large balance which the Board, by the accounts, appears to have on hand, is not available in cash. He also stated that he had given no securities to the Board, they never having been asked from him; but that he is willing now to give any security that may be required for the repayment of the balance due by him."

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE then proceeded to show that the Board had regularly kept an account with the Bank of Upper Canada until the time of its suspension, when the account was transferred, with the approval of the Minister of Finance, to the Bank of British North America. A letter was also read from the Treasurer, Mr. Denison, in which he denied that he had made any contrary statement to Mr. White in reference to the Bank account, but admitting that with regard to the bond, which appears to be in existence, he was under the impression that there was none such, it having been given many years ago. After commenting on the falsity of Mr. White's report.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE proceeded to say with respect to the Treasurer's accounts, that, according to the information before the Board, there was a balance on the 31st November last of \$12,047 76 in favour of the Board. This balance a month later, on the 31st December, had been reduced to \$8,233 76, the Treasurer having during the month of December paid \$3,791. The end of the Board's financial year was the 31st December, and the last audit made was to the 31st December, 1867. The auditors, Messrs. T. D. Harris and John O. Howard, were men who stood very high in the estimation of the business community in Toronto; and at the last annual meeting at Hamilton of the Association Mr. Harris was re-appointed auditor by the delegates from the various County societies. Under these circumstances, the Board had no reason to call in question the report of the auditors. They were entitled to assume that the auditors had made a full examination of all the accounts submitted to them, and that the balance they reported would be available. They supposed that the Bank book would, as a matter of course, be examined by the auditors. The only remaining point to be noticed was the security. Mr. Denison seemed to have given Mr. White to understand that there was no security, having apparently forgotten it. But the fact was, that there was a bond still in existence, and available for an amount of \$1,000. Mr. Christie here produced the bond, which was entered into on the 1st December 1858, by George Taylor Denison for the sum named. He said it was the out bond of the Board that there would be no loss whatever. That bond covered, at least, half the deficiency. There was a small balance at their credit in the Bank; and, taking the matter at the very worst, there could not be a loss of more than \$1,000. But they had no reason to anticipate that there would be the loss of a