

would enable it to offer larger prizes at its annual exhibitions. I am answered that it would be a serious mistake to abolish the existing organization; a proposition not even hinted at in my communication.

I concur in most of the statements of the report of the Committee. The progress of the agricultural interests of Ontario has been so marked as to be a fair subject for congratulation; and the steadily increasing success of the annual Exhibitions is an undoubted fact. All this, however, may be conceded without necessarily involving the admission that this success has been due to the particular premises in which the Council of the Agricultural Association hold its meetings. That, let me repeat here, is the main point raised by my letter. I am sure that neither the other members of the Government nor myself have the slightest desire to interfere in any way with the perfect independence of the Council, or to exercise any political influence over the Association. I have in no way attacked its autonomy; and if, in the future, that autonomy be attacked, and it will be only on account of the action of the Council itself, the surest way of perpetuating its existence and usefulness is by exhibiting it to the country as an economical and carefully managed body. And it is because I desire to see its autonomy preserved, that I regret the course which has now been taken by the Council.

The Agricultural and Arts Association is a Provincial, not a local institution; and it occurs to me that access to its officers would be much more convenient, if they were to be found in the same buildings with the general Departments of the Government. Those Departments are places of constant resort by the people at all times, and during the sessions of the Legislature the advantage to its members, all of whom take a deep interest in agricultural matters, would be manifest. Thus as a mere matter of public convenience, the centraling of all the Departments of the Government and Agricultural and Arts Association, with its Library and Museum, and its Executive officers, in the same building would be very advantageous. But when to these be added the fact that a very large saving could be effected in the expenses of an Association to which the Legislature grants ten thousand dollars of the public money annually, I find it difficult to appreciate the motives which have prompted the Council to reject my proposal.

Since I have had the honor of presiding over the Department of Agriculture and Arts, I have had but one motive in view,—that of promoting the success of the great agricultural and manufacturing interests of Ontario; and I think I may claim that—by the measures which I have thus far succeeded in getting passed by the Legislature, and by the departmental arrangements which I have inaugurated—those great industries have been more extensively promoted, and the more efficient and satisfactory working and management of all the Associations and Societies receiving Legislative aid have been secured. In my present proposal, I have been influenced by the same desire, and I feel confident that upon a full consideration of it the people of Ontario will recognize it to be a wise one.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

JOHN CARLING,  
Commissioner.

In Mr. Christie's absence, the Council seemed at

a loss what to do with the foregoing communication. Dr. Beaty considered that the latter cast very grave imputations upon the officers of the Association, and thought it should not be published until the President and Council had held a consultation over it. It was decided, after some discussion, not to make the letter public, nevertheless it appeared in the columns of the *Globe* next morning, whence we without much hesitation, take the liberty of transferring it to those of the ONTARIO FARMER, that the farmers of this Province may have an opportunity of ruminating over it as well as President Christie and his Napoleonic Council.

Mr. Weld endeavoured to illuminate the Council on the subject of drainage, also as to the importance of introducing the best quality of seeds, &c. The Council then proceeded to elect judges for the coming Exhibition. A number of gentlemen were chosen, but it was decided that their names be withheld from publicity at present. Dr. Beaty made a futile attempt to have motive power furnished for machinery at the next Exhibition. On the ground of its expensiveness it was resolved not to provide it. It was decided that four turnstiles constructed on the Norton principle should be ordered. They will register the number of persons passing through them, and thus obviate the possibility of a repetition of the frauds of last year. Special entrances will be provided for season and complimentary ticket-holders. The Executive Committee was empowered to employ gate-keepers to the number they deemed necessary for the Exhibition. The Hon. D. Christie and Mr. J. C. Rykert, M.P.P., were appointed delegates to attend the New York State Fair. Mr. Wilson and Dr. Beaty were appointed to act in a similar capacity at the Province of Quebec Agricultural Exhibition.

It was resolved that the Treasurer be authorized to arrange with the Manager of the Bank of British North America for the allowance of interest at the rate of 3 per cent. on the current account of the Association—a similar arrangement to be made with the Merchants' Bank, should the Bank of British North America decline the proposal.

Sundry small accounts were ordered to be paid, and the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

#### THE PRESS EXCURSION.

This year, for the first time since the pleasant custom has been established, we found ourselves able to join in the excursion of the Press Association. The annual meeting was held in Brantford, and a very cordial welcome was given the "press gang," by the citizens of that place. From Brantford, the party proceeded by special excursion train on the G. T. R. to Buffalo, making the journey very pleasantly and expeditiously. After spending