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AGRICULTURAL AND ARTS ASSOCIATION.

The Council of the above named Association met pursuant to adjournment on the 6th ult. In the absence of the Hon. D. Christie, J. C. Rykert, Esq., M. P. P., presided. An application from Mr. R. L. Denison, late Treasurer of the Association, for a release of certain lots covered by a mortgage to the Association, with a view of their being sold, was referred to the Solicitor of the Association for his advice. On his recommendation that the lots be permitted to be sold, provided not less than the appraised value be obtained for them, and the proceeds paid upon the mortgage, a resolution was passed authorizing the President to release the said lots. Mr. Becher, of London, put in a claim for \$171, in payment for legal services rendered in the prosecution of fraudulent gate keepers at the last Exhibition, which, after some discussion, was laid over till next meeting of the Council, the chairman expressing the hope that in the meantime, Mr. Becher would sue the Council for a debt which ought to be paid without demur or delay. At a subsequent stage of the proceedings, it was resolved:

"That the account of Mr. Becher, be referred to Messrs. White and Shepley, with instructions to call on Mr. Becher and effect an amicable settlement of the same, and with power to give an order on the Treasurer for whatever sum they deemed expedient."

Several minor matters of detail having been disposed of, the following letter from the Minister of Agriculture and Public Works was read:

LETTER FROM THE HON. J. CARLING.

Bureau of Agriculture and Arts, Toronto, 5th July, 1870.

HUGH C. THOMPSON, Esq., Toronto, Secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario.

SIR.—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th of May, enclosing a copy of the report of the Special Committee of the Council, to which was submitted my proposal of the 22nd of February last, for the more economical management of the affairs of the Association, and to express my regret that the Council has declined to accede to my proposal.

I have also to express my astonishment that a proposal so simple in its character, and so desirable in its objects, should have provoked so violent a speech from the President of the Association on the occasion of his submitting it to the Council.

It is charged against me that this is not the first time I have censured the Board. If by this the President desires to call the public attention to the exposures made of the gross mismanagement, which had characterized the conduct of its affairs up to the close of 1868, I am inclined to think the public will consider the "censure" to have been not undeserved. For years the Association had been practically a close corporation, expending large sums of money annually while ignoring the terms of the statute, requiring it to publish records of its transactions, including of course detailed statements of account. For many months the President (Mr. Christie) had been borrowing large sums of money for the use of the Association, and charging the interest, amounting to several hundred dollars, to the Association, when the books showed balances amounting to ten or twelve thousand dollars to its credit, which should have been in the hands of the Treasurer, and available for its ordinary expenditure. For years many exhibitors had been unable to obtain payment of their prizes, and a public distrust in the conduct of the affairs of the Association had been excited which demanded at the hands of the Government some action to remove it. The special occasion of the "censure" referred to, if the President prefers that term, was the neglect for ten months after the close of the year, to furnish returns of accounts as required by me in accordance with the statute, and the plea for that neglect was want of time. As a consequence of the action then taken by me, and of which the President now complains, the public has been, for the first time since 1863, put in possession of a statutory report of the Council, accompanied by the accounts in detail, showing all the prizes of the last Exhibition to have been paid within two months from the close of the financial year. With such results I have strong hopes of being able to survive the attack of the President on account of my former action or "censure" in relation to the affairs of the Agricultural Association.

In my present proposal I am quite unconscious of having censured the Board; nothing, certainly, was further from my intention. My object was one in which I had a right to expect that the members of the Board would feel an equally deep interest, viz., to reduce the expenses of the Association to the lowest sum consistent with its thorough efficiency. And I confess to some surprise that the proposal should have been rejected on grounds which were in no way raised by it. I suggested that the existing organization, by saving the rental of its present premises, and by availing itself of the rooms in the Parliament Buildings, and of the services of an officer and messenger of the Government Departments, could effect such a saving as