

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

ITS DUTIES, SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE DEMONSTRATED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

Conclusion of the Budget Debate Report—Explanation of the Schemes for Assisting the Agricultural and Stock Interests—Mr. Ross Hotly Resented the Insinuations of Favoritism Made by Mr. Mowat—Speech of the Leader of the Opposition—Mr. Mitchell Tertained the Government's Policy a John Bull Policy—Mr. Haultain Would Not Accept Provincial Establishment With Any Less Powers Than the Provinces Possess.

(Continued from last issue.)
THE LEADER.—Budget debate report (S.W.T., October 1st, 1888) brought off last week in the middle of the session of the Commission of Public Works and Agriculture.

MRI. BOWS.

had applied to him which implied the government to undertake the opening of the Peace River road, and explained the work done on the route. It was proposed to show some of the results of his action and his opposition to that motion, as follows:

"He had taken the trouble to visit the exact section of the road at Calgary and Edmonton according from the opening of the road. The Government could not have been more pleased if there had been people foolish enough to think they could go to Yukon by that route." From the President of the Board of Trade he had learned that the cost of that town from Sept. 1879 to Oct. Sept. 1888 amounted to \$100,000.

"All the time the trade of the town had increased 50 per cent over the former year, and one-half of that was due to the trade of Edmonton which had increased by \$70,000, and the opening of the road to Peace River had increased the trade to \$100,000."

The fact in itself was ample justification for the expenditure. From Mr. Mowat, Mr. Day, he had learned that the northern trails resulted in the sale of horses to the Indians to the value of \$100,000 at Calgary. Many parts of the Territories could give him experience in this respect. Mr. Reid and Mr. Bowes had sold horses and oxen and doves to the trade north. Even if Mr. Day had not been able to demonstrate that it was possible to do so, the fact that the scheme was full scope for all the organization which they were providing, Mr. Ross was sure to hear anyone say that it was preferable to the one which he had selected.

After hearing the speech of Mr. Ross he said that the territories had to take care of their own interests, but they would not have to pay resolutions in the House to save their territory, but the government had to take care of its own interests and show their desire to remain as a part of the Territories. (Applause.)

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

The House at last session had made provisions for a department of agriculture, but nothing was made of the organization of a board. When Mr. Ross was organized, the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Reid, took charge of it. Mr. Reid's time, however, was fully taken up with other matters, so that the department did not get off to a good start.

Mr. Reid had no time to attend to the affairs of the department, so he had to leave it to Mr. Bowes.

Mr. Bowes had the interest of the department and of the people there should be no difficulty.

As he did not in the course of his speech say anything for or against the new board, and finally selected Mr. Petersen, this gentleman was not a member of the party. Mr. Petersen had been a very good man, but he was not a man who could be expected to do much in agriculture. He took the board interested in agriculture. Mr. Petersen had never been to this country and his farm in Manitoba was a mere sheep pasture, so miles as at Calgary, where he had the largest number of sheep.

In connection with his brother, Mr. Petersen had proved himself a good man.

He came on the 1st of May, ever since he had been here, to the chamber to speak to the House.

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