

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said he would accept the suggestion that the number of schools should be 120, and not less than 60. He would also accept the suggestion made before recess by the hon. member for South Bruce, that the last sentence of the clause should read, "Provided always that it shall not be necessary to appoint more than one inspector in such riding or county."

Mr. FERGUSON asked if any instance could be given of an inspector having charge of 120 schools. The Chief Superintendent thought that sixty was sufficient.

Mr. BLAKE said there would be no necessity for requiring that an inspector should have the care of 120 schools if the county council thought that number too many for one man. They could appoint an additional inspector.

Mr. CARNEGIE suggested that, in the case of a county having 120 schools, it might be very inconvenient to divide them equally. It would be preferable to fix the minimum at fifty, which would allow some latitude.

This suggestion was generally agreed to, and the alteration made in the clause.

Mr. BAXTER was in favour of a continuance of the present system. The township inspectors were always at hand when wanted, which very probably would not be the case if county inspectors were appointed. He was in favour of raising the character of the schools by increasing the qualifications of teachers, upon whom rather than upon the inspectors the responsibility rested.

Mr. CROSBY said the local superintendents of the district were, as a rule, very efficient men.

After some discussion, the clause was adopted as amended.

On clause 6, that "Each city or town shall be a county for the purposes of this Act, and the inspector shall be called the city or town inspector, and shall possess all the powers of a county inspector in such city or town, except such as relate to investigating and deciding on school trustee election complaints, which now by law devolve on the county judge,"

Mr. BEATTY suggested that towns should be left out. There were many which had but one or two schools, and it would be a great hardship in such towns to compel them to appoint an inspector. He would move that the word "town" be struck out.

It was suggested that towns in such cases would appoint the same inspector as the county in which it was situated, which would obviate this expense. The amendment was withdrawn, and the clause carried as it stood.

On clause 7, which provided that the qualifications of county, city, or town inspectors should from time to time be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction, which shall determine the time and manner of examination of candidates for certificates of qualification, and grant certificates of qualification; and no one not holding such certificate of qualification shall be eligible to be appointed an Inspector.

Mr. BLAKE said that with regard to the examination of teachers, there were no provisions in the clause. He thought it would be well to indicate that an examination should take place in the county towns, and that there should also be a reasonable frequency of examination. He would ask the Provincial Secretary would it not be well to modify the clause, which required that persons having a first-class certificate to pass a second examination.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that it was the desire of the Chief Superintendent not to disqualify those persons who were county Superintendents heretofore.

Mr. BLAKE said the clause should say that those who were discharging the duties of county superintendents should be eligible to appointment without examination.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said he would consent that after the word "determine" should be inserted the words, "the qualification, and fix the time and manner of examination"

Mr. BLAKE said the suggestion would scarcely meet the difficulty, but the first line of the clause dealt with this very matter of qualification.

Mr. SINCLAIR thought it would be better to state in the clause those who were qualified. There was nothing that approached nearer to persecution than continual examinations. He thought it would be well to admit graduates of the University, masters of grammar schools not graduates, of three years standing, and first-class common school teachers of five years standing, to the office of inspector, without examination. He moved an amendment to that effect. He did not do so on his own responsibility, but at the request of the Board of Public Instruction of his county.

Mr. CAMERON thought it would be very undesirable to tack any such amendment to the clause. Those who had charge of educational matters, and had the interests of education at heart, would take care of the interests of the teachers. It would be much better to leave the qualification in the hands of the Council of Public Instruction. Modifications might be necessary in the future, but they should rest with the Council. He hoped the clause would not be pressed, though he was free to admit that it was very much in accordance with the views of the Chief Superintendent himself; but it was inadvisable in his (Mr. Cameron's) opinion, to press the matter at the present time. With regard to exempting graduates, he did not think that the obtaining a degree was sufficient to show that a graduate was fit for the office of public inspector.

Mr. MCGILL said that he knew that many of the superintendents could not undergo re-examination, for many of the *minutiae* of education had passed from their memory, as not being necessary. He thought the House should declare that all who now held the office of superintendent should be eligible for re-appointment.

Mr. BEATTY said he thought that graduates should be exempted from examination. The examination could not be a fair test of the adaptation of candidates, for the questions and answers would be in writing, and would only be a test of literary ability. He thought there should be an exception in favour of the graduates of our Universities.

Mr. HAYS said that some of those graduates could not take a common school third-class certificate.

Mr. MATCHETT said that the present superintendents should have a preferential claim to re-appointment.

Mr. BLAKE agreed that the object of the House should be to secure the best men for the office of inspector. With regard to the exemptions proposed, the difficulty that had arisen in his mind on the subject was that whether the requiring all parties to pass an examination would not restrict the area of selection? Would they be less likely to get the best men if every applicant was told, no matter what his qualifications might be, that he would have to pass an examination before he would be eligible for an appointment as inspector? The examination as now conducted was simply a test as to knowledge, and had no reference to the special qualifications of the teacher or inspector. The explanations of the hon. Secretary with regard to county superintendents had lessened the difficulty he felt in the matter.

Mr. CARNEGIE considered that when the country had to pay a large sum for superintendents, it should procure the best men, and those should undergo an examination.

Mr. FERGUSON said that the suggestion of the member for South Bruce should not be adopted.

The amendment of Mr. Sinclair was put and lost.

Mr. BLAKE said that he would not make any amendment just now, but would suggest that some such words as these should be added to the clause by the Provincial Secretary, "Provided that such examinations should be held by the Board of Examination to be established by the Act."

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that he could not accept the amendment, for it was a reflection on the Board of Public Instruction.

The clause was then put and carried in its original shape.

The House proceeded to consider the eighth clause, which had reference to the mode of appointing inspectors.

Mr. PERRY moved an amendment to the effect that the inspectors should not be appointed for life, but during pleasure.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON defended the clause on the ground that it was drawn up to induce proper persons to qualify themselves for the office of county inspectors.

Mr. MATCHETT inquired of the Financial Secretary what would be sufficient to justify the dismissal of one of those officers?

Hon. Mr. CAMERON replied that misconduct would be a sufficient cause.

After some discussion,

Mr. SINCLAIR moved an amendment to the effect that the Government should not have the power to appoint or dismiss these inspectors. He said that if this clause became law the appointments would be equal to life appointments; the inspectors being officers of the Government, it would be next to impossible to dismiss them for inefficiency or misconduct, and the House would be flooded with petitions on the subject.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that the House, if it made any alteration in the clause, would have to assume the responsibility of the act; as for himself, he was not averse to a change. He would suggest that the clause should be altered in such a manner as to make the County Council the judge in the matter of dismissal.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH said he thought the Provincial Secretary should accept the amendment. The County Council would not overstep their powers; for having to pay the half of the salary they would be careful in their decisions.

The amendment of Mr. Perry was put and carried.

The amendment of Mr. Sinclair was put and lost.

The clause, as amended, was carried.

On clause 9, referring to the powers of inspectors, which are to be the same as those now enjoyed by the Local Superintendents,

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) adding to the clause the words "and to report on the condition, classification, and discipline of the school, the teaching capacity of the teacher, and the average progress of each class of pupils,"

The amendment was lost without any debate, and the clause was then carried.

Clause 10 stood over.

Clause 11, relating to the appointment of board of examiners for teachers, the numbers of which is fixed not to exceed five, nor be less than three.

In reply to Mr. SINCLAIR,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that this Board were to be examiners, but examiners on written papers. The Board was also to decide as to who should receive certificates.

In reply to Mr. BLAKE,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said the examinations would take place in the country, not in the city of Toronto. The first class certificates would be decided in Toronto; the County Boards would decide on the second and third-class certificates.

Mr. BLAKE said that the proposed plan of examinations would be very cumbersome. No man would compete for only a second or third-class certificate, but for a first-class certificate. In such a case the papers would have to be sent to Toronto for decision as to a first-class certificate, and, in consequence, the decision as to second and third-class certificates would also have to be given in Toronto.

After some further discussion, the committee agreed to leave over the clause for the present, the understanding being that a suggestion of Mr. Blake's—that there should be a change in regard to the mode of dealing with third-class certificates—should be introduced into the Bill at a future stage.

The committee proceeded to consider the 12th clause, which has reference to the Council of Public Instruction, providing that the Council shall prescribe a uniform examination and classification of teachers. The clause also contains a provision as to first, second, or third class certificates.

A discussion ensued, and the clause passed, the following provision having been expunged:—

"Provided nevertheless, that no certificate of qualification shall be valid any longer than the holder thereof shall pay four dollars per annum into the fund for the support of superannuated or worn-out teachers, as provided by law; which sum shall, in all cases, be paid in advance during the month of January in each year.

The committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The House adjourned at 11.20 p.m.