

and others, of Chatham praying for certain amendments to the School Bill.

Mr. Colquhoun—From the Township Council of Finch, praying for the erection of a bridge across the Nation river. (Not read.)

Mr. Grahame (York)—From the Village Council of Yorkville, praying for certain amendments in the Municipal Law.

Mr. Hooper—From the Township Council of North Marysburgh, praying that the Act to repeal the Act dividing that township may not pass.

Mr. Hooper—From the County Council of Lennox and Addington, praying that some measure may be adopted by which the statutes will be distributed to municipal councils and their officers free of charge. (Not read.)

Mr. Hooper—From the County Council of Lennox and Addington, praying for certain amendments in the Assessment Law.

Mr. McCOLL (Norfolk)—From the County Council of Norfolk, praying that the proposed School Bill may not pass.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Atty. Gen. MACDONALD presented the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

#### HAMILTON AND LAKE ERIE RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Hamilton), introduced a Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Hamilton and Lake Erie Railway Company.

#### THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—

Bill to confirm and establish a certain survey of the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth concessions of the township of Portland, in the county of Frontenac, made by Aylesworth Bowen Perry, a Deputy Provincial Surveyor.—Hon. Mr. Cameron.

Bill to enable the Church Society of the Diocese of Huron to sell or exchange certain Church land in the township of Bradford, in the county of Brant.—Hon. Mr. Wood.

Bill to authorize the trustees of the Presbyterian Church, in the township of Kenyon, county of Glengary, in connection with the Church of Scotland, to sell lot two and part of lot one, in the seventeenth concession of the said township.—Mr. Craig (Glengary).

Bill to vest in the County Agricultural Society of Glengary certain property situate in the village of Williamstown.—Mr. Craig (Glengary).

Bill to authorize the Law Society of Upper Canada to admit Daniel Brooke, Junior, as a Barrister-at-law.—Mr. Lount.

Bill to authorize the Law Society of Ontario to admit William Henry Steele as a Barrister-at-law.—Mr. Lount.

Bill to amend the Act to provide for the trustees of the Church and other property of St. Andrew's Church, Peterborough, and to authorize the trustees of the said property to mortgage the said property, or part thereof.—Mr. Carnegie.

#### THE SCHOOL BILL.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the School Bill (Mr. Lount in the chair), resuming its consideration on the 13th, that "it shall also be the duty of the Council of Public Instruction, by the training of teachers, the programme of studies, the selection of text books, and special regulations, to provide for teaching in the public schools the elements of natural history, of agricultural chemistry, of mechanics, and of agriculture."

Mr. BLAKE said the committee should receive further information on this clause. If the design were that all these branches were to be taught in all our public schools, the committee ought to know it; but if the design were to introduce these branches into such schools as were able to bear them—so to speak—the committee should also know it.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said it was the intention to provide for instruction in these subjects in the common schools so soon as persons could be found qualified to teach them.

Mr. BLAKE asked if it were the intention to provide for these subjects being taught in the common schools immediately.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON replied it was the intention to have them taught as soon as possible.

In answer to Mr. HAYS,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said it was the intention that instruction on these subjects should be given in the schools of

the city of Toronto, and by all school-masters throughout the country, so soon as they were qualified.

Mr. HAYS said that the general opinion of the country was that it was better to have these subjects taught in the high schools. At present there were as many branches in the common schools as could be taught.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said it would be very desirable that in our common schools these elements should be taught to some extent.

Mr. McCOLL (Norfolk) said he heartily approved of the clause.

Mr. SINCLAIR said it would be far better to teach common subjects in our common schools, though he thought it would be very well, perhaps, to have some lessons on agriculture given. He thought if the attention of the pupil were distracted by too great a diversity of studies, his progress would be retarded. In some schools there were fugal teachers introducing natural philosophy when the pupils were hardly able to read. He considered that the attempt to make colleges of our common schools would impair their usefulness.

Mr. PERRY would like to know whether it was intended that it should be imperative that school teachers should teach these different branches, and if so whether it would lessen the status of a teacher if he did not do so. If this was so, he thought it would be very unjust and unfair. He thought from the address that it was intended to provide separate schools in which these subjects should be taught. In his opinion it was almost impossible for common school teachers to teach other branches than those they now taught.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said it was not intended that the clause should act prejudicially to school teachers; but it was the desire of the Government that instruction of this kind should be given in the schools. Of course, primarily, it must be as an experiment, and he hoped it would be successful. The hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Perry) was quite right in saying that the Government intended to form separate schools for instruction in these branches, but the instruction given in them would be more advanced. In the present schools the instruction would be elementary.

Mr. LAUDER thought the present law gave the council so much power as it would have under the proposed clause. The clause merely defined as a duty what had been already done in the past.

Mr. CALVIN believed the whole object of the Bill was to crowd out grammar schools. He would like to see the whole clause struck out, but especially that part relating to farming. What did the Chief Superintendent know about that subject, and if he did was it likely that his teachers would? The thing was nonsense—perfect nonsense (Laughter.)

Mr. MCGILL supported the clause.

Mr. CUMBERLAND thought, if the instruction proposed to be given in the schools was practicable and not merely routine, that it would have a beneficial effect. The partial failure of the Agricultural Professorship at the Toronto University, and the total failure of the model school, together with the failure of the experiment in the department also, consequent upon the difficulty and expense of attending, made it seem probable that the effort proposed by the design of introducing a cheap mode of instructing the people in these branches would be successful. He would cordially support the clause.

Mr. PERRY would like to have a more definite reply to his question, as to the position of teachers under this clause—whether they would be compelled to undergo at Toronto such special course of instruction as to fit them for instructing in these branches. Many of them were married men and had families and were entirely dependent on their profession; it would be impossible for these to leave home for any length of time to undergo any particular course of study. They had already qualified themselves for their profession, and this branch had not been hitherto a speciality.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that these subjects would be taught as soon as qualified teachers could be found. If these branches were considered advantageous, then those not teaching them would have to give way. It was not the design that the Council of Public Instruction should remove these teachers, but the public would give the best teachers the preference.

Mr. BLAKE said he thought it was a sequence of the observations of the Provincial Secretary that it was not intended to give special advantages from the public fund.

schools where these branches were taught—in other words that the apportionment should continue as before.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said as to what might be in the future it was impossible for him to say.

Mr. BLAKE said he was speaking of the present time.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that at present there was no intention to alter the apportionments. It was not the intention to alter the apportionment of the School Fund by this Bill; but it was intended to provide funds for "mastership and means of teaching."

Mr. BLAKE—That is in the Normal School.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said he would repeat that it was not the design to alter the apportionment at present.

Mr. BLAKE said he was glad to hear that statement, for in a letter in a public paper he had seen a different statement made.

Mr. ANDERSON supported the clause, which would raise the character of agriculture.

In reply to Mr. McLeod,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said there was no doubt, if the experiment was successful, that the examination papers for certificates would contain questions on the subjects mentioned.

In reply to Mr. Hays,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said it was not intended to compel girls to study these subjects.

Mr. McDOUGALL said he was opposed to the clause on the ground that the common and grammar schools should be kept distinct.

Dr. BOULTER and Mr. MCGILL supported the clause.

Mr. BLAKE, after some satirical reference to the remarks of Mr. McGill, said the chief difficulty against which the House had to guard was the idea of subordinating to any extent what was essential to an attempt to teach these other things. If they still made the three branches—reading, writing, and arithmetic—the most important, they might then engraft upon them, in such cases as experience showed it could be done, these additional branches. But, considering the enormous number of schools existing in the country, and the men that taught in them receiving the salaries they did, and considering the school accommodation and the number of pupils attending the schools, the attempt to engraft upon at any rate eight out of ten of these schools something that would be practically valueless, would be, he was convinced, so much time taken away from that which was necessary for the success of the branches at present taught in the schools. He therefore rejoiced to hear that there was to be no attempt to force these branches on the schools at once, but that they were to be introduced by degrees. He was justified in this view that they should be first applied to the grammar schools by what had been written in the reports of 1869 and 1870, and by the Chief Superintendent.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he had never taken much interest in school matters, and had never voted for trustees, nevertheless, he had taken his share in educational measures before Parliament. He might say, that no School Bill had ever emanated from that distinguished divine, without receiving opposition; the country, however, found out afterwards that they were all right. He predicted that this Bill, in spite of the opposition that had been made, would be found adapted to the views of the country. He held that the branches proposed to be taught in our common schools would be found to be advantageous; and was of opinion that children who displayed a special aptitude for high branches should have an opportunity of learning them. The history of the country had shown that its leading men had acquired their education in its common schools; and he was in favour of experimenting on these schools in the matter of the branches now proposed to be taught. He had the greatest confidence in the sagacity of that veteran divine who for the last thirty years had given the country School Bills; his attainments and sagacity had been acknowledged here and in other countries. Two years ago that venerable divine had received communications from Australia, in reference to a school system for that country; and he (Atty.-General) hoped that the House would appreciate the efforts this venerable divine was making for the education of the country.

Mr. McDOUGALL said that there was nothing more humiliating to the House than to hear particular papers and persons referred to for its guidance. In the present