

should be resident outside the district assigned to it, and upon the same terms as the others. He proposed to make the law that there should be uniform qualifications for the examination of applicants for admission to the High Schools, so that children in all parts of the Province should be subject to the same examination; and these examinations would be subject to be looked over by the same central Committee, thus ensuring a uniform standard of admission. This was the recommendation of High School Inspectors and masters throughout the Province. Unfortunately, there was a certain amount of antagonism between the public and High School masters, which it was proposed to help to do away with as far as possible by providing that a small sum should be paid to Public School teachers for every pupil of theirs who passed a successful examination for admission to the High School. In England a precedent was afforded for this, but he did not propose to offer such large premiums, confining the amount to about two dollars for each pupil. The effect in England had been most excellent, and the probability was that it would also be so here. Clause 34 gave school trustees the same powers with regard to raising of the salaries of teachers as was given to railway companies, that is, compulsory powers. He also proposed some modification of the law as regards compulsory attendance, and also that concerning the superannuation of teachers. By the clause referring to the latter, it is proposed that every teacher on reaching the age of 60 should be entitled to his pension whether he is disabled or not. The law would also provide for the organization of school sections in unorganized territories, and for a more easy mode of appointing assistant teachers in High Schools. In conclusion, he hoped that the Bill would be passed substantially as it stood, and that hon. gentlemen would forego their individual inclinations with regard to it in many respects. He was satisfied the Bill would place our schools in a better position, and he would ask that hon. members on both sides of the House should unite in endeavouring to accomplish that end. He felt certain that it would be a great boon to the country that the law should be amended to the extent proposed. He had no doubt some valuable suggestions would be made in the Select Committee to which he proposed to refer it, which, as far as practicable, he would be willing to adopt. If the Bill passed through the House and became law, it was his intention to consolidate all the school laws of the Province, and so arrange them that there could be no doubt as to their correct interpretation. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. RYKERT objected to the continual tinkering with our school laws. He felt satisfied that it would be far better to allow it to stand as it was originally, than be altering it session after session. The hon. leader of the Government, in seeking to alter some of the features of the law, said he hoped the House would not amend the Bill, but he (Mr. Rykert) was satisfied that before it passed through that House it would be altered very considerably. They could not attack this measure or the Municipal Bill on a party ground, but the views of hon. gentlemen in committee would be brought forth, and the hon. leader of the Government would find that neither the Bill under consideration nor the Municipal nor Assessment Bills would pass without considerable alteration. In his opinion the measure proposed would completely destroy the High School System. He quite agreed with the hon. gentleman that everything should be done to foster and encourage our High Schools, but instead of endeavouring to foster and encourage High Schools he found they were disposed to tax County Councils in regard to these to a far greater extent than before. This Bill proposed that County Councils should give an equal sum to the Government grant, while the County Councils were entirely opposed to grant the increased amount to High Schools year after year. Section 29 gave County Councils the power of doing away with High Schools. This was exactly what they had been seeking for many years. If County Councils were compelled to pay the increased sums for the maintenance of High Schools, it would be found that they would exercise the power conferred upon them by clause 29. This was a most dangerous power to give to County Councils. He was opposed to the admission of Common School pupils to High Schools as provided in the Act, and condemned the introduction of the clause after the decided opinion which had been previously given concerning

the principle by the Treasurer. He objected to the system of examinations proposed, and held it would not prove salutary in its results. The power ought not to be given to an Inspector to turn a child out of a school after he had been there a month or two if he failed to pass the examination satisfactorily. The hon. leader of the Government had a strong desire to change the constitution of the Council of Public Instruction. He (Mr. Rykert) stated that one of the safe guards of our Bench was that our judges were placed there for life, and could not be attacked by outsiders and have their judgments influenced. It was complained that no publicity was given to the proceedings of the Council of Public Instruction, but the minutes of their meetings were laid before hon. gentlemen, and if they were not made public it was the fault of the hon. gentlemen themselves. He did think the hon. Premier had made an unnecessary attack on the Council of Public Instruction, and he felt strongly opposed to passing the Bill in its present shape. He did not wish to stand in the way of improving our Common and High Schools system, but he was certain the present measure would not prove beneficial. Hon. gentlemen might satisfy some hon. gentlemen outside by destroying the school depository, but they would not generally improve the system by tinkering with the law.

Mr. BETHUNE regretted that upon this occasion he was compelled to differ with the hon. leader of the Administration. He was obliged to do so, however, for two or three reasons. Everything, he believed, ought to be done to improve our High and Common School Education. He believed in the first place that the Council of Public Instruction had been a failure. The members of the Council he was satisfied were free from reproach as far as personal interest was concerned, but he believed they had been behind the age, and unacquainted with the sympathies and feelings of the largest portion of the population of this country. They were for the most part persons residing in the city, and uninformed for the most part as to how the people in the country get on, and as to the wants of the people residing in rural districts. No doubt the Superintendent of Education had done a great deal for education in this country, but that gentleman, during the occupation of his office, had acquired many hobbies. This was shown in the papers he had supplied the House with. When Mr. Sandfield Macdonald last introduced his School Bill, the confidence of the people was withdrawn from that gentleman, because there was an opinion that there was too much pressure put upon him by the Chief Superintendent of Education. The question was a very difficult one to deal with, because it affected the consciences and the pockets of the people. One of the reasons why the Council of Public Instruction had been a failure was that the Chief Superintendent of Education had not always been discreet. That gentleman had shown a weakness for letter writing, and principally from that there had been a feeling abroad that the Council of Public Instruction was a mere register of the will of the Chief Superintendent of Education, and a want of confidence was consequently felt in it. He did not charge that gentleman with any impropriety, but from time to time he had descended from the position of neutrality which he ought to occupy, and so far forgot his duty as to write letters of an aggravated character, attacking one party and then another, and of the character of the one addressed to his hon. friend the leader of the Administration. It was necessary that public officers should abstain from that kind of thing without the consent of the Government or his hon. friend the leader of the Administration. What would be said if Mr. Langmuir came out with a violent philippic against the persons who had attacked him about the prison? He (Mr. Bethune) maintained that it was not conducive to the public service for a public officer to take up the position of correspondent to the newspapers. The result of this correspondence of the Chief Superintendent of Education had been the withdrawal of public confidence from him. He (Mr. Bethune) did not believe the legislation was in the right direction. He thought the head of the Education Department should be directly responsible to the people, and that the old system should be given up. This was the only way in which harmony with the sentiments of the people could be obtained, and it was absolutely necessary to protect our educational system. The Government had now either to do something to remove the existing evil, or blot out the Council of Public Instruction