

altogether. The next best thing to that he had proposed to bring the Council in harmony with the people had been adopted. Another reason why the Council had been a failure was that when the Act of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald was passed, an attempt was made to centralize the power. The result of that Act was the passage of regulations of Council in reference to school houses, which provided for the inspection of school houses, and, in the event of there not being adequate accommodation, for the reconstruction of the school house. This was found to work unfairly. In some instances the school accommodation was greatly superior to the accommodation in the homes of the children. He considered that in such instances both cases should be taken into consideration. He, however, maintained that the Council of Public Instruction had not power to make these regulations. The members of that Council assumed powers not vested in them by statute—he did not say intentionally. It was proposed to extend the compulsory clauses of the Act of 1870-1. His hon friend said he proposed to alleviate them, but he (Mr. B. Thane) considered it was an extension of them. It was not a pleasant duty for any person to become a prosecutor, and there was nothing more disagreeable than to prosecute one's neighbour. And if there was one thing more invidious than another, it was to prosecute a man for not sending his children to school. The compulsory clause was not necessary in this country. Only 12,000 children were represented as not attending school, and the legislation in this particular had been a dead letter, and he believed this was legislation in the wrong direction. The law would be, if the Bill were passed, that the unfortunate man who kept his child from school would have to pay \$12 a year for keeping his children from school. It would be found utterly impossible to legislate against the sentiments of the people. He also objected to the clause compelling County Councils to raise sums in each case equivalent to the Government grant. This he considered was a Provincial matter. The Common School question was a matter of local importance, while the other, as he said before, was of Provincial importance, and should therefore be paid out of the Provincial Exchequer. He submitted that the wisest way would be to make grants out of the Public Exchequer in aid of these Grammar Schools if they were in a languishing condition. He observed that an attempt was to be made to obtain for the *Journal of Education* some legislative sanction. The cost of the publication of that paper was \$2,500 a year, and was merely so much waste paper; as far as worth was concerned; if the information it was desired to publish were printed upon an extra sheet of the *Gazette* it could be printed for about \$50, and save the expenditure of \$2,000 annually. With regard to clause 63, as to the government of new Normal Schools, he thought there was time enough for legislation in that direction. He thought, with respect to the School Depository, the Government had taken a course which would commend itself to every gentleman in the House, and it would remove the cause for complaint which it had been considered existed. There were a number of other provisions with which he agreed. It was utterly impossible for the Government to bring down a measure which would meet with the unanimous support of every section of the House, because each one knew the needs of the different parts of the country. He believed there should be an attempt made not only to make the legislation as fair as possible, but also to make it appear fair to every section of the community.

Mr. CALVI said there were few questions in which there was so much interest manifested. The people in his section of the country were quite alarmed with regard to legislation in this respect, and they desired amendment of this law. He objected to the raising of the standard of the schools. The people were not prepared to bring up the Common School and abolish the Grammar School. He was opposed to the great powers given to the Council of Public Instruction, and said that in Committee he would present a memorial from his constituents in order to show what their feelings were. He strongly deprecated the pulling down of school houses, and went on to state that the School Law had already killed one political party, and he would undertake to say that if this Bill were passed, another party would be killed. (Laughter) The libraries were an unnecessary expense to Common Schools, for the books were not read. He also objected to the present system of inspection, and would oppose the Bill now before the House.

Mr. SNETSINGER could not agree with the clause compelling the County Councils to give an equal amount to the Government grant. The people in the rural districts complained of the text books being changed so frequently. He was in favour of the provision with regard to the building of suitable school-houses, and thought the clause with regard to compulsory attendance should be retained.

Mr. CURRY was pleased to see the manner in which the Bill was received. He would much rather have seen a measure introduced for the consolidation of the School Laws with regard to the Council of Public Instruction. He thought the elective feature introduced would add to the popularity and efficiency of that body, and he would like to see the representation of school teachers increased beyond that proposed in the present Bill. He could not agree with his honourable friend from Lincoln, that the effect of the Bill would be to destroy our present High School system, or that it would have the effect of reducing the number of High Schools. Nor could he agree with the clause providing that counties should supplement the Government grant by an equal sum, because it would be a great burden on some counties. He was opposed to the 25th clause, providing for the establishment of preparatory classes for the preparation of pupils for admission to High Schools. He certainly did not believe in centralizing powers that might safely be left in the hands of the people or the people's representatives. The compulsory clause he considered unnecessary, and suggested that after twenty-five or thirty years teachers should be allowed to retire upon their superannuation allowance. Then he thought that if a school teacher had a claim for salary against a school trustee he should have more time than three months in which to prosecute. He would move that the two last lines of the 52nd clause should be struck out. He did not think inspectors should be allowed to engage in other business, as they were well paid for their duties in this respect. With respect to the Depository, he thought the improvement would be very well received by the country, and he was assured that no schools had less reason to complain of a want of liberality than High Schools. He was glad it was intended to send this Bill to a Special Committee, and he trusted it would in Committee be approached in the manner it had been. It was the sincere desire of all to make the educational system the best they possibly could, and he trusted that when the Bill came back from Committee it would come back in such a shape that it would meet with the cordial approval of the House and the people.

Mr. HODGINS thought the scope of the Bill should commend itself to the House. The new element proposed to be introduced into the Council of Public Instruction would tend to elevate the status of that body. There were some points with regard to the constitution of the Council which he thought should be modified. It was proposed to elect school teachers, who would be enabled to control the acts of the School Inspectors, the superior officers of the teachers. It seemed to him they should not elect teachers or school inspectors on the Council. There was another element which should be introduced, he thought, into the Council. They had no representatives of the tax-paying element, and if they were to have representatives from the County and City Councils, he believed it would prove advantageous, and the confidence of the people would be obtained to a greater extent. There were some of the clauses which he objected to, and one was allowing Common School pupils to pass High School examinations. With regard to other sections of the Bill, he would defer his observations until it was returned from the Special Committee. It was certainly to be regretted that the Chief Superintendent of Education had entered into the political arena, but when his personal honour was attacked he thought that officer had a right, and that it was his bounden duty, to defend himself.

Mr. DEROCHE said that he did not believe that the time when the Council of Public Instruction should be done away with had come, although it might come yet. He thought that the Government had taken the best course possible under the circumstances. He had had opportunities of becoming acquainted with the members of the Council, and he would say for them that no body of men could have laboured more earnestly, more honestly, more zealously, or more unselfishly for the educational interests of the Province than they. They had performed their duties without pay, simply as a labour of love, and he thought they deserved better