

Public Instruction, although he differed with that gentleman on some points. This question could be settled in Committee, but he did not think teachers or inspectors actively engaged in the school room should be represented upon the Council. In reference to the suggested change in the Education Department he thought the head of that department, should be free from the atmosphere of politics. He regarded favourably the compulsory attendance clause, and thought the *Journal of Education* was absolutely required, and that the sum required for its maintenance was not large considering the revenue of the Government. He did not see any necessity for the number of holidays proposed, but on the whole, he thought the Bill was one which would commend itself to the country.

Mr. BARBER looked upon the Bill as an important and satisfactory measure, which might be so amended in Committee as to commend itself to the country.

Mr. LAUDER said, with regard to school inspection, that in some instances the appointments might have been unfortunate, for a great deal depended upon the knowledge and skill of the inspector to make matters run smoothly. He, however, thought if the local bodies exercised care in the selection of inspectors, that the system in this respect would work more desirably. He was not prepared to say whether the time had arrived for the abolition of the Book Depository, but he was quite sure the amalgamation proposed would not prove satisfactory. If the proposition of the hon. member for Stormont were to be carried out with regard to the change of the management of the Department of Education, it would have the undesirable effect of introducing upon the floor of the House and into political warfare educational matters. Since Confederation the school laws had been greatly improved, and this was due to the influence of a general opinion which had obtained ground after years of labour. He was in favour of increasing in every way the efficiency of the school system, but this could not be done by introducing on the floor of the House every petty disturbance and difficulty which might arise in school sections. He advocated the keeping of politics out of a question of this kind, and believed that in what was right and proper in their proposition the Government would have the support of the House and the country.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that in his opinion our school system in Ontario had solved a very difficult problem, having done away with religious asperity in matters of education. It had been popular as well as successful; but in order to maintain its popularity, and keep it from falling into disrepute, we should require to meet all the difficulties which from time to time presented themselves. Such difficulties had recently arisen, not so much about great matters, but about things in themselves comparatively small—things, however, which had caused the friends of the system to fear very much for its continued success. He advocated the management of our education by the Legislature, and asserted that that portion of the law which referred to its management as at present had been very distasteful to the House, when it was introduced, while it was carried at last mainly by the influence of the Chief Superintendent. He was also in favour of the payment of members of the Council for their services, arguing that those members should be men of legal mind. He was opposed to the clause which made it compulsory for school trustees to prosecute for non-attendance of children, as he also was to the payment by a board of any special sums to teachers or of extra payments to inspectors for extra work. He was not in favour of township boards, and while he thought the proposed amendment with regard to the Depository was in the right direction, he would not be very much opposed to the suggestion of the hon. member for South Grey—that the percentage should be altogether abolished. He was in favour of the continuance of the *Journal of Education* if properly conducted, and made such a journal as people generally would read. With regard to the pressure brought to bear for the purpose of having better school houses built, he thought the original intention of the Legislature was good, but it had been so severely exercised, and had been rendered vexatious. He thought it would be a good thing for the Government to furnish plans for good, cheap school houses, as at present many mistakes were made on account of the employment of incompetent architects. He was of opinion that the Government should remove, if possible, every cause of dissatisfaction and irritation.

Mr. BOULTER thought the result of our present system was on the whole good, and

the difficulties which had occurred in the back country were greatly magnified by the arbitrary conduct of the inspectors. He advocated enlarged districts for High Schools, and was well satisfied with the standard proposed for entrance to these schools. He was also satisfied with the proposal in regard to the Council of Public Instruction, and believed it would make a great improvement.

Mr. PRINCE said the difference of opinion held upon this question illustrated the necessity for party Government. He held that there was no new principle introduced into the measure of the Government, and therefore no room for much discussion. He held that a large portion of the discussion had been irrelevant and unnecessary.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT rose to express his gratification that the principal features of the Bill had given satisfaction on both sides of the House. While there were some clauses to which objection had been taken and changes proposed by hon. members, some of these objections had arisen from a misapprehension as to the effect of the clauses, some had been answered by other hon. members, and there were some clauses which he thought would require the consideration of the Committee to which he proposed to refer the whole Bill. These were matters of detail, which would be best discussed in the Committee, and which he would not enter upon now. In offering the amendments to the School Law incorporated in the Bill before the House, he had been actuated by no hostility either to the Council of Public Instruction, or to the Chief Superintendent of Education. Apart altogether from politics, and some late matters in reference to himself (Mr. Mowat), he was bound to say that the Chief Superintendent had rendered important service to the country, and his ability was such as made him a credit to the country to which he belonged. (Cheers)

The Bill was then read a second time.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, and in making a selection of the persons who were to form that Committee, he had had considerable difficulty. It was not desirable that the Committee should be large, and yet it was necessary that there should be a pretty full representation of those members who took a special interest in the subject. He therefore proposed to put upon the Committee every gentleman who had spoken upon the subject, and some others who took a special interest in the matter who had not spoken. He, therefore, proposed that the Committee should consist of Messrs. Barber, Boulter, Bethune, Cameron, Clarke (Wellington), Clarke (Norfolk), Christie, Currie, Chisholm, Code, Deroche, Finlayson, Farewell, Gow, Gibson, Lauder, Hodgins, Monk, Snetsinger, McManus, Sinclair, Patterson, Wood, and the mover. Carried.

The House then adjourned at 10:20 p. m.

Mr. SNETSINGER, in his speech on Tuesday evening, said he disagreed with Mr. Bethune as regarded County and High Schools. He was in favour of counties providing half the amount granted by the Government; but rather than take away county aid, he would go for the Bill as it stood—the county giving an amount equal to that granted by the Government. 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.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. O'Donoghue—On Friday next—Enquiry of Ministry when it is the intention of the Government to proceed with the erection of the new Normal Schools in the city of Ottawa, and what is the cause of the present delay.

Mr. Clarke (Norfolk)—On Friday next—Address for copies of all correspondence between the Government and individuals belonging to mining associations on the North shore of Lake Superior, relative to the partition of the Municipality of Shunias.