

strongly advocated the formation of these Boards, which had also been found to work better in the United States than school sections. He had endeavoured to secure a change in the right direction in reference to teachers' salaries by enabling trustees to pay their quota quarterly. The amendments proposed in regard to High Schools were such as he hoped hon. members would assist in coming to a proper conclusion about, and he proposed in Committee to avail himself of their experience in regard to this difficult subject. He moved the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) said that the measure of the Minister of Education would, he believed, in many respects be productive of very great benefit. He would, however, be in favour of making the quarterly payment of teachers' salaries compulsory instead of optional. He was glad to hear that the school programme would be made a little more elastic than it now was. He did not think it advisable that children in the rural districts who attended school only for a short time should be compelled to follow the same programme as city pupils. He approved of having the same number of holidays for Public as for High Schools. County Councils should not have power to dismiss a County Inspector except when cause was shown, and then only with the concurrence of the Governor in Council. He instanced the case of the Inspector for North York, one of the best in the country, he believed, whom the County Council had attempted to dismiss merely because he had endeavoured to carry out the law. Nor did he believe in having High School Trustees appointed by the County Councils. Too often those who were appointed in this way overrode those who were elected by the people in cases where the High and Public Schools were united.

Mr. DEROCHE was opposed to compelling the pupils of rural schools to study all the subjects in the present lengthy curriculum. In this respect our present system was too rigid, and the effects of the efforts of inspectors to enforce these cast iron rules had not been beneficial. He thought that County Councils, which had the power of appointing inspectors, should also have the right of dismissing them. There were very few cases, he believed, in which these officials would be dismissed without good and sufficient reasons. He thought it unfortunate that graduates of first class universities were not eligible for the office of inspector without passing the examination before the Central Committee. It might be well to require them to produce testimonials of having successfully taught school for say four or five years, or to impose other reasonable conditions upon them, but it was scarcely fair, after their long training in the university, that they should not be eligible for these offices. He approved of the proposal to establish county Model Schools. It was better than building more Normal Schools. It was undoubtedly an evil that teachers should not make their profession a permanent one; but it was one that would continue until greater inducements were held out for them to remain teaching. He approved of the suggestion of the Minister of Education to make the municipalities in which High Schools were situated pay a greater amount towards their support than they now did. It often happened, however, that, as in the case of the village of Newburgh, in his constituency, though the majority of the pupils came from the surrounding country, the village had to bear the expense of sustaining the school.

RETURN.

Mr. Wood presented the annual report of the Ontario School of Agriculture for the year ending 31st October, 1876.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) said, in reference to the proposed County Model Schools, that they should not be held during the holidays, and should be, as far as possible, under the control of the local authorities. He suggested that certificates of aptitude for teaching should be granted at these Model Schools. Some inducement should be held out to teachers to make their profession a permanent one. The standard for third-class certificates should be raised, and they should be made permanent for the county. The teacher's engagement with the trustees should hold good during efficiency and good conduct. Resolutions which had suggested the ideas he had just advanced had been passed by the Teachers'

Association of Norfolk and Haldimand.

Mr. MEREDITH said that during a previous session all the members of the Government had voted against a motion made by the member for East Toronto to the effect that teachers should have a portion of their expenses paid while attending the Normal Schools. In view of that fact he thought the Government should say whether the system had been tried elsewhere, and with what success. He considered that the Government had broken faith with the western part of the Province in regard to a Normal School, as many members had supported the erection of a Normal School at Ottawa on the understanding that another should be built for the west.

Mr. ROBINSON said that the Premier had announced at Ottawa that it was the intention of the Government to erect a Normal School at Kingston, and one in the west. He (Mr. Robinson) had also letters and telegrams in his possession which he thought would show that that had been the intention of the Government. If the Toronto lawyers were to rule the House the eastern members should know it.

Mr. BOULTER—Hear, hear—they're a bad lot. (Laughter.)

Mr. LYON said the principal objection he had to our school system was that younger pupils, especially in the rural districts, were obliged to study altogether too many branches. This was a serious evil in his opinion, and one which would have to be removed if our education was to become popular in the best sense of the word. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) reiterated the view that the Inspectors should not hold office by the mere good will of the County Councils. He was of the opinion that those members who were asking for Normal Schools in their several localities were not adopting a broad and liberal course in dealing with educational matters. He believed that the method proposed by the Minister of Education, of establishing county Model Schools and helping teachers in their attendance at the present Normal Schools, was a better one than the erection of additional Normal Schools. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BARR complained that there was at present too great a multiplicity of studies in the schools. He thought that as inspectors were appointed by the County Councils they should be liable to dismissal by those bodies. Many of these officials paid too little regard to the wishes of the people in carrying out the school regulations. He regretted that there was not a provision in the Act for the election of School Trustees by ballot. By making the High Schools as efficient as possible, there would be no necessity for Normal School accommodation.

Mr. BISHOP was of opinion that in our present system of education there was altogether too great a tendency to centralization of power. The people had virtually no control over their educational affairs, but were at the mercy of arbitrary departmental regulations. For example, he knew of a case in his own riding in which some children, after walking one and a half miles through the snow to school, had the doors closed in their faces because of some regulation as to the time at which they should be in the school-room. There were several clauses of the Bill to which he would feel disposed to move amendments in Committee.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that instead of its being a matter of surprise to him that so many teachers quitted the profession, he wondered that so many remained in it. The second and third-class teachers had been badgered with new regulations and standards of qualification over and over again, and the result had been that some of the very best teachers in the country had been driven out of the profession. He believed that third-class certificates should be made permanent in the counties in which they were granted, and that the old teachers of the county should be allowed to remain at their work if the trustees were willing. He believed that the County Councils should have the right of dismissing School Inspectors.

Mr. PRESTON said the Government had, he believed, promised that a Normal School should be erected at Kingston. He hoped that when the amendments contained in the Bill were passed there would be no further interference with the school law for some years to come. The change in the law with regard to the school vacations was, he believed, a great improvement. He thought there were too many branches taught in the schools at present.

Mr. HAY favoured a census of the school