

vision would produce an agitation in the country and would be productive of more harm than good. The High Schools, as the feeders of the Universities and the means of high class education, were of Provincial importance, and should be very largely maintained by liberal governmental grants.

Mr. FERRIS said if it were once understood that the High Schools were to be largely supported by Provincial grants there would be a High School in every village and hamlet. He was in favour of the Government contributing one-third, the counties one-third, and the local municipalities one-third. A provision of that kind would, he believed, be regarded with general favour.

Mr. BOULTER thought that cast iron rules should not be enforced to an equal extent in all parts of the country. The Inspectors had done much in the way of securing increased school accommodation, but they should discriminate to some extent as to the actual requirements and the wishes of the people. He believed the committees which prepared the examination papers for the second class last summer had been very unreasonable. He believed every member would see the necessity of leaving a certain amount of discretion in the hands of the Government, and of lending his assistance to make this measure all it ought to be. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RICHARDSON said the country generally had been satisfied with the provision placing the management of the Education Department in the hands of a responsible Minister. He thought the appointment of county inspectors had been a step in the right direction.

Mr. DEACON thought county inspectors ought not to interfere in elections. This had not been done in his constituency, where, in the elections of 1874, the Inspector had been an active politician.

Mr. COLE warmly approved of that clause of the Bill which proposed to pay the teachers quarterly. Other employers were compelled now-a-days to adopt this system and he saw no reason why trustees should be an exception to this rule. He thought the rate to be paid in different sections for school maintenance should be equalized as much as possible.

Mr. HARGRAFT thought that there should be a larger proportion of the maintenance of High Schools paid by the towns in which they were situated than by the rural sections.

Mr. CREIGHTON congratulated the Minister of Education upon the interest he manifested in our schools since assuming the duties of that position, and made several suggestions in regard to the Bill for the Minister's consideration.

Mr. MERRICK said he should like to have some further information from the Minister in regard to the formation of Township Boards.

Mr. CAMERON said he thought the Minister of Education should feel flattered by the compliments that had been paid him during the debate by members of the Opposition. When he had introduced a School Bill his efforts had not been met by the then Opposition in so liberal a spirit. He agreed with the member for Stormont that the counties should not pay an equal amount with the Province for the support of High Schools. There was not much new in the present Bill, its several provisions being chiefly amendments to the existing Act. He should rejoice if the latter were rendered more perfect.

Mr. CROOKS expressed his thanks to the House for the many valuable suggestions offered to him by members, and explained some of the provisions to which objection had been taken. He proposed to explain more fully the different points raised when the Bill got into Committee. The experiment of county Model Schools had been tried in effect at Ottawa, where the city Public Schools served as Model Schools in connection with the Normal School, and the result had been highly successful. He believed a good deal of the irritation existing in rural school sections had arisen from a too rigid adherence to the regulations. He pointed out that many of the regulations which had been complained of as severe were those of the Council of Public Instruction, and were not imposed by statute. The intention of the Bill was to render these regulations more flexible by giving wider discretionary power than was now enjoyed. He hoped there would be a full discussion of the measure in Committee.

The motion was then carried, and the Bill

read a second time.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 11:30 p. m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Widdifield—On Thursday next—Bill to amend the Act to readjust the representation in the Legislative Assembly, 1874.

Mr. Broder—On Friday next—Order of the House for a return showing the fines imposed and collected by the several Wood Rangers for trespass; when and where committed, during the years A. D. 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876; by whom, and from whom collected; amount and when returned.

Mr. Bell—When the House is again in Committee on Bill No. 42, respecting the Credit Valley Railway, will move an amendment to clause 2, that the following be inserted after the word "for," in the 21st line: "three hundred persons in any city, and fifty persons in any other municipality." Also, to insert after the word "thereto," in the 28th line: "provided that before any such by-law is submitted, the Railway Company shall deposit with the Treasurer of the municipality a sum sufficient to pay the expenses incurred in the submission and voting upon such by-law as aforesaid, which said sum, in the event of the by-law having been approved of, shall be refunded to said Company, but not otherwise."

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, Feb. 6.

The Public Accounts Committee met this morning at ten o'clock, that hour having been fixed by resolution at the last meeting. There were present Messrs. Clarke (Chairman), Ballantyne, Gibson, Striker, and Williams. After waiting until 10:27 the Committee adjourned for want of a quorum.