

the voluntary system as exhibited in the grants to Mechanics' Institutes, but for his part he was not by any means certain that the benefits derived from Mechanics' Institutes were at all commensurate with the amount expended upon them. He referred to the reports published in some of the newspapers regarding the finances of the Depository, and said that there was every necessary check upon the receipts and expenditures of that branch of the Department. Its financial condition had been thoroughly examined and had been found to be satisfactory. As a Reformer he conceded the principle contended for by the booksellers, that the Government should not undertake to do what could be as efficiently performed in the regular course of trade; but there were some matters—and it was possible that this might be one of them—in which it might be well for the Government to afford a certain amount of protection to the people.

Mr. BETHUNE said he believed that the Minister of Education had thoroughly looked into the question. The importation of books, however, had wonderfully increased since 1853, and that being the case they might naturally look to the competition of booksellers to prevent a monopoly. He would like to see the experiment tried of dispensing with the Book Department, and if it were found that a monopoly was the result the Department could be restored. The check upon the character of the books could be exercised just as well by purchasing from the booksellers as from the Depository. All that was necessary was to furnish a list of desirable text-books to the trade, and they would be supplied. The Government would save a considerable sum, which was of importance in these days of economy. For instance, the sum to be voted was over \$9,000, and then there was to be taken into account the capital sunk. In the city of London the School Board had entire control of the purchase of books, but the necessity for this was apparent, as the schools were numerous, and it was desirable that the books and apparatus should be purchased by one head. The traditions of the Education Department would naturally be in sympathy with the retaining of the Depository. The Depository fixed the prices of the text-books, and the booksellers complained that they could not compete at the figures selected. At a time when so much was being said about fostering the trade of the Province, it might be well to encourage the bookseller by making the experiments he had suggested. Of course the Depository could not be abolished hastily. He intended, before concurrence was asked, to test the sense of the House by calling for a division on the matter.

Mr. LAUDER said that this question had been argued session after session. The Treasurer had thoroughly investigated the matter, and had come to the conclusion that it would be wisest to leave it where it stood for the present. He was not so certain that the booksellers would not take advantage of the abolition of the Depository. A suggestion from the Treasurer to gradually bring about the change indicated would meet his approval.

Mr. MOWAT said that the hon. member for Stormont appeared to be under the impression that the Depository cost the country \$10,000 a year. This sum, however, was placed in the estimates as the expenditure; but the receipts did not appear. The Treasurer had examined into the matter, and had employed men familiar with the business of the book trade, and the result was set forth in the special report which had just been brought down. The report showed the expenditure, charges of management, and rates of the Depository. The amount of profits derived from the sales was \$4,000 in 1868, and in 1875, \$7,000. All expenses were taken into account except rental. He might point out that the whole amount of the sales of the Depository was a mere fraction compared with the book trade of the country. Last year the Education Department purchased something like \$32,000 worth of books, while the trade importations in Upper Canada amounted to \$580,000. The desire of the Government was to afford every possible facility for books being obtained all over the country at a reasonable rate, at a proper time, and of a proper kind. His hon. friend the Treasurer asked for another year to complete those investigations in which he was now engaged, and he felt satisfied that the hon. member for Stormont would admit that that time should be given. The House felt that this Department, which had existed so long, should not be swept away without the fullest opportunity being

given for the most thorough investigation. Mr. FERRIS said that he believed the Depository to be an important auxiliary to our school system, and one which could not be dispensed with advantageously. The member for Stormont had taken the ground that the booksellers' interests were before those of the children of the country. The booksellers would gain in the end by the cultivation of the literary tastes of the people through the distribution of the Depository books.

Mr. DEROCHE supported the views expressed by the member for Stormont. He had long been of opinion that the Depository should be abolished. The dissemination of the proper kind of literature among the youth of the country was certainly a desirable object, but the question was whether the object might not be accomplished in another and a better way. He could not see the necessity of keeping up a large staff of officials for the purpose when it might be done as well by the regular trade.

Mr. GIBSON said that he had at one time been prejudiced against the Depository, but he was beginning to regard it with a good deal of favour. The books could be supplied at a far cheaper rate than by the booksellers.

Mr. PAXTON favoured the retention of the Depository, and believed the people would censure the Government if they abolished it. He did not think the trade could supply the right kind of books as cheaply as the Depository did.

Mr. LONG thought that the book-stores should now be allowed to supply the books instead of the Government.

Mr. COLE said he hoped that next session the Minister of Education would be able to inform the House whether the booksellers throughout the country were in the habit of selling the books required in the schools as cheaply as the Depository. He supported the continuance of the Depository for the present.

Mr. MERRICK said that nearly all the inspectors who had given an opinion at all were in favour of retaining the Depository. The only agitation against it had been, he believed, by the booksellers. If the Depository were done away with, they would soon find the booksellers raising the prices. The general feeling of the country was in favour of retaining the Depository.

Mr. STRIKER said that, speaking in the public interest and as one who had been engaged in the book trade, he was in favour of retaining the Depository, as there were very many books and other articles which could be supplied by the Depository and could not be supplied by the booksellers.

Mr. MERRICK pointed out that although the member for Lennox and Addington opposed the Depository, the Teachers' Association of those counties had passed a resolution in its favour. That was a pretty good index to the feeling of the people in that section. He noticed, also, that the hon. gentleman's own name appeared as assenting to the resolution.

Mr. DEROCHE said that a meeting of that Association at which such a resolution had been passed had not been held to his knowledge, and furthermore, his name had been appended to it without his knowledge or consent.

The Committee then rose and reported, and it being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess.

#### THE CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAY.

The House went into Committee on the Bill respecting the Credit Valley Railway.

Mr. BELL moved, in amendment to the second clause, that the following be added 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 the said Company, but not otherwise."

Mr. MILLER moved an amendment to the amendment making it five hundred persons in cities, three hundred in towns, and 50 persons in other municipalities. He stated that he had not abandoned his opposition to the principle of the Bill, and would move against it on the third reading.

Mr. CAMERON pointed out that the