

fact its affairs, and thought the people of Ontario would have no cause to regret that change. So far as the School Boards were concerned, they generally recognized their responsibility to the people by whom they were elected; but when they came to school inspectors and county and township Councils it ought to be understood that in matters which, under the law or regulations, were entrusted to those bodies, it was to them primarily that the disappointed ratepayer should look. It was they who should dispose of matters of that kind, and the only responsibility which attached to the general jurisdiction was the framing of the law or the regulations in reference to the duties and responsibilities of those local bodies and officials. The matter of school accommodation was one as to which the statute was entirely recommendatory, and the only provision as to rural school sections was that they should provide accommodation for two-thirds of their school population. It was a subject of complaint in some parts of the country that the Inspector enforced these regulations without a regard to the requirements and circumstances of the sections. He had taken very great care in revising the regulations for the purpose of these appointments to make it perfectly clear that any Inspector who dared to oppress the ratepayers of a school section with an undue demand for school accommodation would be subject to having the whole matter laid before the Minister of Education. He went further, and had suggested to the Inspectors the advisability of discussion on all these matters, and had done everything to prevent the carrying out of a mandatory construction on such clauses in the School Act as he had referred to. Moreover, if Inspectors should so far fail in their duty as to carry out their predilections in favour of either party in any political contest he would, if a case of that kind were brought to his attention, necessarily discharge the offender from his position. After alluding further to the duties of Inspectors and the qualifications necessary to the position, he discussed the question of township as against section boards of trustees. It was a strong argument in favour of the township boards that the per capita cost of educating children under their management was less than under sectional boards. In regard to the question of text-books there was considerable difficulty, but the resolution he had come to soon after taking charge of the Department was to protect the schools from being troubled by unauthorized text-books, and that no text-books should be authorized unless they were standard works of their kind, and were well got up as to their mechanical execution. He had also taken the position that no newly authorized text-book should find a place in any school unless by consent of the trustees and inspector. After the Council of Public Instruction had been abolished, only fourteen new books were authorized out of a list of forty; the old list contained forty-nine, of which twenty-eight were retained—twenty absolutely, and eight provisionally. These new text-books were not intended to be forced upon the schools; on the contrary, it was distinctly understood that the matter of excluding the old text-books was one entirely for the school boards and inspectors. He concluded by a reference to the highly satisfactory state of secondary education in the Province, the convenience with which it could be obtained, and the small expense connected with the system. He moved the second reading of the Bill. (Applause.)

Mr. BELL thought this a most important Bill, but he was sorry to see that the ballot system in school elections was not provided for in the Bill, as had been petitioned for by the Council of Toronto and other places. In Toronto in seven out of nine cases the trustees were elected by acclamation, the reason he believed being because the elections were held so shortly after the regular municipal elections. It would also save a great deal of expense if the elections were held on the same day.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Speaker left the chair at 6 o'clock.

ONTARIO SHIP CANAL.

After recess,

Mr. WIDDIFIELD moved, "That the petition of the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal Company be referred to the Standing Committee on Printing, with instructions to order the printing of the same; also that the quorum of the Select Committee to which the said petition was referred do consist of five members," which was carried.

LICENSED VICTUALLERS.

Mr. HARDY presented the petition of the Licensed Victuallers, praying that they may be allowed to keep open their places till eleven o'clock on Saturday night.

TRUSTEES.

The Bill to authorize certain variations in deeds to trustees of religious societies, introduced by Mr. Mowat, was read a second time.

MORTGAGES.

The Bill to give mortgagees certain powers now commonly inserted in mortgages came up for a second reading.

Mr. MOWAT explained that the object of the Bill was to give the mortgagee power to sell without application to Chancery, and to give other powers, and moved for a second reading of the Bill.

Mr. MEREDITH supported the Bill, but he suggested that a tariff of costs should be framed for proceedings in such cases.

Mr. CURRIE was glad to know that the mortgage suits in the Province were to be put an end to. He instanced an undefended case in which infants were interested, in which the costs amounted to almost as much as the mortgage debt.

Mr. WHITE approved the idea of making a tariff of charges, because he had found that a sale under power of sale was very costly.

The Bill was read a second time.

REGISTRATION OF DEATHS.

The Bill respecting the registration of deaths introduced by Mr. Mowat came up for a second reading.

Mr. MOWAT explained that under the Act it was necessary for clergymen attending funerals to give particulars of the death to the Registrar. The Bill provided that a simple notice of the death should be sufficient.

Mr. MEREDITH said it was a question whether the cost of these statistics should be borne by the Province. There had been some mention made of a Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and it would perhaps be well to leave the solution of the facts to the Dominion Government.

Mr. MOWAT—If you will get the Dominion to do it I shall be very glad to leave it to them.

The Bill was read a second time.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. WOOD said it had been thought that it would be impossible to have the Public Accounts brought down before the end of the session, but he found that by employing an extra staff of assistant and leaving in abeyance some of the regular work of the Department they would be able to bring the Accounts down in time. (Cheers.)

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply.

The item of \$56,652 for the Asylum for the Insane, Kingston, was passed.

With regard to the sum of \$39,979 for the Insane Asylum at Hamilton,

Mr. WOOD pointed out that when only 150 patients were accommodated in the place the Bursar was able to perform the duties of store-keeper and steward as well, but now that there were 320 inmates it was necessary to appoint special officers. In other and minor matters an increase had been necessary.

The item was carried.

The sum of \$20,674 was voted for the maintenance of the Asylum at Orillia.

With regard to the vote for the Central Prison (\$67,270),

Mr. WOOD explained that it had been found necessary to employ an assistant engineer at a salary of \$400; the change in the nature of work done required a reduction of \$13,000 in the cost of material; otherwise matters remained as heretofore.

Mr. MEREDITH thought the Committee were entitled to more information concerning this institution, as it was one in which the people were feeling considerable interest. It was a heavy drain upon the resources of the Province, and the people felt that if this institution had never been established the criminals would be in the Kingston Penitentiary.

Mr. WOOD said that the institution had been projected by the Sandfield Macdonald Government. It was quite true that some of the convicts would be in Kingston but for this institution, but many others would be in the county gaols; the effect of this was to relieve the counties of heavy expense, and besides justice was better administered. The prison had been unfortunate in its contracts, but that was hardly the fault of the Government. They had now given up the pail-making industry and had sold the machinery. The manufacture of brooms had been taken up for the firm of Nelson & Sons, who paid a certain price per dozen, they furnishing the material. The brick-field was at work making brick for the building of the new reformatory; the shoe-shop, tailor-shop and others were also being conducted.

Mr. BELL thought still further information should be given, as the public felt there was something wrong in this institution. He would read a letter which he had received.

Mr. HARDY—An anonymous letter?

Mr. BELL—No; I will give you the name at the right time—not to-night.

Mr. HARDY objected to the reading of this letter unless the hon. member was prepared to lay the whole letter before the House.

Mr. BETHUNE did not know what was the regular Parliamentary practice, but he believed that it was not correct to submit a letter under these circumstances.

Mr. HARDY said it might be an ex-convict who wrote this letter.

Mr. BELL—It is not from an ex-convict.

Mr. WOOD maintained the objection, for it was not fair to the House and the institution to read such a letter as this.

Mr. HARDY said perhaps this was a letter making a charge against some officer of the institution, and if so how could that charge be answered? There were not only ex-convicts who were dissatisfied with the institution, but there were discharged keepers and others; and the hon. member for West Toronto had no right to bring a letter before the House and thus give it this endorsement which might be from an utterly incredible person.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the Provincial Secretary making any such insinuation as that against the hon. member for West Toronto. It was his duty to assume that that hon. gentleman would not bring forward any document unless he thought it would be to the interest of the Province.

Mr. HARDY said that the hon. member had before read a letter which connected his (Mr. Hardy's) name with the Central Prison in a most unfair and unjustifiable manner, and he could not tell but the present letter was of the same nature. He would ask the ruling of the chair upon the question.

Mr. LAUDER quoted the Parliamentary rules to show that hon. members had the right to read from books and letters or other documents except newspapers.

After further discussion,

Mr. CHAIRMAN ruled that if this were a letter of any public moment, and if it referred to the present debate, the hon. member might read it wholly or in part.

Mr. BETHUNE appealed to the House from the decision of the chair upon the following ground:—"That an hon. member of this House has no right to read a letter unless prepared to read the whole document, including the signature, and so place the House in possession of the whole of such letter."

The Committee rose, and Mr. Speaker having taken the chair the point was discussed.

Mr. MEREDITH thought the Attorney-General should give his view upon this subject.

Mr. MOWAT said he had always been unwilling to argue a question of this kind without further consideration. His impression from the argument, however, was that it would be a matter of great inconvenience if the rule were as claimed by the hon. member for West Toronto. He would like to have further time to consider the point.

Several hon. members—Adjourn, adjourn.

Mr. PARDEE said he thought it would be well to adjourn in order to give hon. members and Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committee, an opportunity of looking into it.

Mr. MEREDITH concurred in the suggestion in view of the importance of the question.

Cries of "Question, question; Adjourn, adjourn."