

ernment and their decision would be announced when the estimates were brought down.

#### HIGH SCHOOL LEGISLATION.

Hon. G. W. ROSS, in reply to Mr. Brereton, said it would be announced when he brought down his High School Bill next Monday or Tuesday, if it was his intention to introduce legislation, making it obligatory on the part of County Councils to aid High Schools and Collegiate Institutions in towns separate from counties for municipal purposes.

#### EAST SIMCOE.

Hon. O. MOWAT said, in reply to Mr. Meredith, that the Government had not yet decided what course they should take with respect to the East Simcoe constituency representative. Their decision will be made known in a few days.

Mr. MEREDITH—You would rather the motion stand?

Hon. O. MOWAT—For a day or two.

Mr. MEREDITH—For a day or two only? The constituency should not remain unrepresented.

Hon. O. MOWAT—It will be a day or two before I can state the course we are prepared to take.

#### THE SMALLPOX OUTBREAK.

Mr. WOOD moved for a return showing in detail the expenditures made in the Township of Hungerford, by the authority of the Provincial Board of Health and the Local Board of Health during the late smallpox epidemic, that prevailed in that township, with the number of cases and deaths, and the length of time the epidemic prevailed. He thought many distressing incidents had occurred, and if anyone was to blame it ought to be found out.

Hon. A. M. ROSS—I am not at all sorry that the question has been raised, and I am quite certain that it will reflect the highest credit upon the Provincial Board of Health in the first year that it has been acting under the new Act of last session. I should have preferred, however, that the discussion should have been deferred until the House was in possession of more information. I have asked Dr. Bryce to make a special report upon the epidemic. That report is prepared and, I believe, now in the printers' hands, and had the motion been delayed a day or two the members would have had it in their hands and had more means of coming to an intelligent conclusion. I have no fault to find, however, with the manner in which the matter has been brought to the attention of the House. From the report of the Secretary to the Provincial Board of Health, I find that the expense has been \$1,600 to the Province, and from the report received by the Secretary to the Local Board, I learn that the expense to the county will be \$10,000. The number of cases of smallpox death with is 200, and the deaths from that disease 45. The House will thus see that the epidemic was one of great magnitude. While prompt and energetic measures were taken by the local Boards of Health, yet in townships such as Hungerford, which are not so well situated for efficient organization as the older settled townships, it was necessary to extend the aid of the Province to the district. It was found that fourteen cases had occurred before the matter was brought to the attention of the Provincial Board. The local medical men refused to attend to the cases, as they knew they would lose their own practice. One of the medical men did, however, consent to attend to the cases, and he was appointed medical officer to the local Board of Health; and as to the amount of his bill I am not able to state, but I am privately informed that it was a very large one. An urgent appeal was made to the Provincial Government for assistance in the way of additional medical skill. It being impossible to get medical men to leave their practice, two medical students of three years' standing were induced to go, and it was thought that these would be sufficient, along with their medical gentleman who was acting. The expenses of these and their salaries were paid. It was found necessary that the localities should be isolated. It will be readily believed that those people who could leave would try to do so, and all passenger traffic was suspended, and constables were employed to stop people leaving and carrying out contagion. Schools and churches were closed and every thing possible done to isolate the disease, and I think that the efforts of the Provincial Board of Health, and the Local Board of Health, have been most successful, and it reflects the highest credit upon all concerned that in two months the epidemic had been stamped out. As far as the cost has been, of course it is considerable. After the disease had been stayed the houses, clothing, and goods of the persons in the district had to be fumigated, and some of the latter were destroyed. In Illinois an outbreak of smallpox had taken place and though it was of less magnitude than ours it cost more than double to suppress the disease.

Mr. MORRIS considered it unfair that a township such as Hungerford should bear such a large portion of the expense as \$10,000. He wished the House to understand that if such prompt measures had not been taken for the suppression of the outbreak, it would have assumed the magnitude of Provincial proportions. Then he argued that the township which had saved the Province from this should not be allowed to bear such a large proportion of the cost. He instanced former outbreaks, and concluded that smallpox was a controllable and manageable dis-

The House adjourned at 4:05.

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

## Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Wednesday, Feb. 4.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

### PETITIONS.

Among the petitions presented were the following:—

Mr. McKenzie—From the Council of Middlesex that no Act may pass to divide that county.

Hon. A. S. Hardy—From the Dean and Chapter of St. Albans the Martyr for an Act amending their Act, to enable them to purchase lands outside the limits of the City of Toronto.

Mr. Ermatinger—From the Council of St. Thomas for an Act to consolidate the debt of that city, and for other purposes.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—From the Council of Hamilton for an Act relating to the management of water-works.

### THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Hon. A. M. ROSS, in answer to Mr. Ermatinger, said that the continuance or discontinuance of the Provincial Exhibition was a matter of great interest to the agricultural community. The matter was under consideration of the Gov-