

Mr. MEREDITH moved that the said Bill be not now read the third time, but be forthwith referred back to Committee of the Whole House with instructions to provide that departmental regulations or Orders in Council altering the basis fixed by the statute law for the distribution of the legislative grant for High Schools and Collegiate Institutes shall not be operative until approved of by the House.

Hon. G. W. ROSS—My hon. friend is most unreasonable. After we have agreed to submit to the House every regulation affecting the Public, Separate, High, and Model Schools—every regulation affecting the internal and external arrangements, the qualifications of teachers, and so on—he asks that the financial details of the High Schools be submitted.

Mr. MEREDITH—No, it is the basis.

Hon. G. W. ROSS—Then that leads to ascertaining how much money is appropriated to each High School. The other things that will necessarily follow the submission of this basis, as he calls it, will be that the amount granted to each High School shall be submitted to the House and approved before it shall be operative. Let me tell the hon. gentleman how this money is to be appropriated. First, no less than \$400 shall be appropriated to each High School. This is fixed and imperative. Second, the remainder shall be divided on the basis of salary, internal and external equipments, average attendance, and efficiency of the school. As far as these conditions are concerned I cannot go outside of them, and it is on these conditions that the money must be appropriated. It is for our inspectors to report the circumstances of each school, and it is on the basis of this that we shall have to say whether No. 1 school shall pay \$30, or \$40, or \$50 more than No. 2 school. He had better appoint a Committee of the House to sit in one of the rooms of the Education Department to examine the reports of the inspectors and see if the calculations based on those reports are carried out rightly. I am astounded at the attack on responsible government involved in the amendment of my hon. friend. We are not charged with having misappropriated the High School grant; there have been no complaints in the past as to the way in which we have dealt with this fund. He concluded by showing that the basis upon which the grant was to be divided was fixed by the Act.

Mr. CREIGHTON said no one asked that the specific grants should be approved of by the House. He contended that the whole Bill could be completely altered by the regulations of the Department.

Mr. Gibson (Huron) and Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) were in favour of the Bill.

Hon. C. F. FRASER suggested that if Mr. Meredith were on the Government side of the House he would be the first to insist that responsible Ministers, representing the country through the members, should be allowed the discretion indicated by the Bill. The Opposition pretended to be in favour of a Superintendent of Education who was not responsible to the House and whose regulations were not submitted to the House, and yet they were unwilling to trust the Minister of Education for nine months to interpret the regulations and wisely carry them out.

Hon. O. MOWAT pointed out that if Mr. Meredith were sincere in his contention that he had only made the motion because he was afraid that the Minister would have power to completely change the basis upon which the grants to High Schools were divided, he would call attention to the Bill which stated distinctly that the High School grant must be divided upon the principle contained in the Bill. He also showed that in the Bill referring to the Education Department, the Minister could only make regulations within the restrictions imposed by the High School Act. It could not then be contended for a moment before a lawyer or a judge that the Minister of Education could change the basis in the manner suggested. He hoped that the amendment would be withdrawn.

The question was then put on the amendment, which was lost by 41 nays to 28 yeas.

Following is the division list:—

YEAS—Messrs. Baskerville, Brereton, Broder, Carnegie, Clancy, Clarke (Toronto), Creighton, Denison, Ermatinger, French, Hammell, Hess, Hudson, Kerns, Kerr, McColman, McGhee, McKay, Meredith, Merrick, Morgan, Mulholland, Preston, Robillard, Ross (Cornwall), White, Wilmot, Wood—28.

NAYS—Messrs. Awrey, Badgerow, Balfour, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Blezard, Cascaden, Dill, Dryden, Ferris, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilhes, Gould, Graham, Hagar, Harcourt, Hardy, Hart, Laidlaw, Lees, MacKenzie, McKim, McLaughlin, McMahon, Master, Morin, Mowat, Neelon, O'Connor, Pardee, Rayside, Ross (Huron) Ross, (Middlesex), Sills, Waters, Widdifield, Young—41.

#### TAX ON DOGS.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved the third reading of the Bill to amend the Act to impose a tax on dogs and for the protection of sheep, which was carried.

#### MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

On the motion of Hon. A. M. ROSS the Bill respecting the amounts past due and payable by certain municipalities upon the settlement made by statute of their debts to the Municipal Loan Fund, was referred back to Committee of the Whole and amended.

#### BISHOP OF ALGOMA.

Mr. DILL moved the third reading of

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

## Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Thursday, March 26.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 a.m.

### PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

Mr. HARCOURT presented the second and final report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections respecting the East Simcoe election case.

Mr. MEREDITH asked that the report be allowed to stand. The chairman had gone on with the business so promptly at the meeting of the Committee this morning that scarcely any of his friends had an opportunity of being present. He objected to the report because its evident object was to let Mr. Drury "down easy."

Hon. C. F. FRASER said it seemed as if the hon. gentleman would like something in the report that could be used against Mr. Drury, who had acted in the frankest manner throughout the whole of the proceedings. So far as the report was concerned, there was not a single friend of the hon. gentleman present when it was considered. Some of them did come into the meeting, but left before the report came up, and not one of them suggested that there were any of the hon. gentlemen who wished to be present. If they had done so he would have been glad to have made a postponement in order to give them an opportunity of being present. The Committee did wait till half-past ten, but in view of the morning session opening at eleven, it was impossible to wait longer.

### CITY OF ST. THOMAS.

Mr. ERMATINGER moved that the order for the third reading of the Bill to consolidate the floating debt of the city of St. Thomas be discharged for the purpose of being reconsidered in Committee with the object of adding certain amendments to which he referred the other day.

The motion was lost on a division.

The Bill was then read the third time.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS.

Hon. G. W. ROSS moved the third reading of the Bill to amend and consolidate the High School Acts.