

Mr. MEREDITH said he observed by the plan that the road ran along the bank throughout the park. The land between the bank and the road belonged to the Crown. What object was there in buying all the land proposed if the desire was simply to preserve the natural beauties of the place?

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said he did not know of any reason why the project should be thus confined; it had never been proposed by anybody. He

RECOGNISED THE ADVANTAGE of preserving the natural beauties of the bank of the river, and hoped some day that this scheme would be so extended as to take in a road to the whirlpool, which was second in interest only to the falls themselves.

Mr. MEREDITH, on a subsequent clause of the resolutions, asked why it was proposed to endorse securities to be issued by the commissioners instead of issuing the securities of the Province direct.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said the object was to keep this entirely distinct from the other liabilities of the Province.

The resolutions were carried, and a bill based upon them was introduced and read the first time.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN.

Hon. Mr. HARDY moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole upon the Bill for the Protection of Women in certain cases. He explained that it was to bring within the condemnation of the law a man guilty of seducing a woman, who was at the time an inmate of a public institution, thus extending the law, which now prohibits the seduction of lunatic women in the asylums. After some discussion the House went into committee on the bill and passed, and reported it without amendment.

LAND SURVEYORS.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE moved the House into Committee of the Whole on the bill respecting land surveyors, and the survey of land. The bill was considered in Committee of the Whole, and progress upon it reported.

REVISED STATUTES.

On motion of Hon. Mr. MOWAT, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill respecting the revised statutes of Ontario, which was considered and reported.

GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS.

On motion of Hon. Mr. HARDY, the House considered the bill respecting the guardianship of minors in Committee of the Whole and reported progress upon it.

STATUTE COMMISSIONERS.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT'S bill to give early effect to certain amendments of the law recommended by the Statute Commissioners was passed in Committee of the Whole and reported.

IMPROVING THE LAW.

On motion of Hon. Mr. MOWAT, the bill for further improving the law was read the second time.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Hon. G. W. ROSS moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Act respecting Public schools. He explained that one section provided for a declaration of trustees by the chairman or secretary having charge of the polling. Under the present law a trustee was required to make a declaration after election, which they sometimes failed to do, and a litigious person could put them to some inconvenience. The declaration he believed

was not necessary--this bill provided that a trustee should be notified of election, and if, in twenty days he did not refuse to serve, he was *ipso facto* the trustee. In some cases the ratepayers failed to elect the required officers of the school section, and thus avoided the legal burden for schools. This bill provided that in case of such a failure, the school section was abolished, and divided among those adjoining. There was now some difficulty about the assessment in unorganised districts. The assessment was revised by a stipendiary magistrate and the inspector, or by one of them. But this was often inconvenient, and the bill provided that the assessment should be revised by the secretary treasurers of three sections acting together. It was proposed also to impose an additional tax on unoccupied lands. These lands were sometimes held for speculative purposes, and it was unfair to the people of the district that they should be relieved of taxation. Better provision was made for the organisation of the first Board of Trustees in an incorporated village, town or city, and to clearly constitute the Board in each of these a distinct corporation. The introduction of the Kindergarten system had caused a revolution in the primary department in many American cities. Under the present law of Ontario Boards of Trustees might establish infant schools, but as the earliest school age was five years they could not have the benefit of grants for the younger children in Kindergar-

ten schools. This bill would provide a remedy for that. Under this measure the power of trustees with regard to school sites was enlarged. In some cases even when the school accommodation was most wretched the ratepayers refused to provide better. A remedy was proposed which would still recognise the force of popular opinion in the district. In cases of such refusal the trustees might apply to the Municipal Council on the recommendation of the Inspector, and with the sanction of the Council the Inspector would be authorised to issue debentures, if he chose, for the purpose of making improvements. A number of other changes also were proposed, which he briefly explained. As the School Law was being consolidated with the others the latest modifications decided upon were now proposed, and he hoped the result would be a School Law which would not need serious alteration for years to come.

Mr. HARCOURT referred in terms of commendation to the clause relating to Kindergarten schools. He dwelt upon the great favor into which this system had grown and was glad to see that it was to be fully recognised in the law of this Province. One difficulty of engrafting this new system upon the existing system of education was the securing of teachers, but he believed that the plan now being carried out by the Minister would overcome that difficulty. Another was the expense. But it had been pretty well shown that the conducting of a Kindergarten class was not appreciably greater than a primary department of the present system. Moreover a Kindergarten teacher could take charge of more children than it was deemed advisable under the present system to entrust to one teacher. He trusted school trustees everywhere would avail themselves of this section.

Hon. G. W. ROSS said that two years ago arrangements had been made in connection with the Normal school for the study of Kindergarten methods, and as a result the Department would be able to send out Kindergarten