

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) said that he had two letters pointing out this very difficulty. He thought they should hasten slowly.

Mr. MEREDITH said he was satisfied that these arguments on behalf of the tenants were made by landlords. Such arguments from such a quarter were open to suspicion. He feared that this bill would breed a system of agreements which would deprive the tenants of the advantages of the law.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said that the hon. gentleman surely did not propose to deprive the landlord of the right to take security for the payment of rent. Suppose instead of a small house the building rented was a valuable store, it would not be right to prevent a chattel mortgage or some other security.

Mr. MEREDITH contended that men were often defrauded into signing waivers of their rights. A chattel mortgage could not be prevented, and so formal an instrument would probably not be signed so readily as the small slips which might readily be provided, and he was satisfied would be in the hands of every landlord.

Mr. O'CONNOR said that if a few lines in the lease or a small agreement could suspend the operation in any particular case it would be much better not to have the Act at all.

Mr. WOOD (Hastings) said that the tenant would in some cases be injured by the necessity put upon landlords to demand rent in advance, and could see no reason why the tenant should not give security by agreement.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said the objection last raised was one which affected the principle of the bill. But this point, respecting persons contracting themselves out of the advantages of the Act, was a very important one, and one which he thought had not been fully considered. He suggested that the bill should not

be passed by the committee until there had been further opportunity to consider it.

The committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

#### THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Hon. G. W. ROSS, moving the second reading of the bill respecting the Education Department, explained that the measure, though really short, dealt with three very important subjects. Although the people of the Province were generally engaged in agriculture and universally interested in the success of that pursuit, no adequate means had ever been provided for a general diffusion of knowledge on the subject. Under regulations passed some time ago the teacher was authorised to give instructions in the shape of lectures on Friday afternoons on subjects

##### RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Taking a step forward, a text book was being prepared so that those teachers in the Normal schools might have the advantage of instruction in it and the benefit of systematised and correct information on the question. In future the students in the Normal schools would be taught agriculture on much the same basis as the instruction in the Agricultural College was now carried on. The people of Ontario had every interest in promoting a love of farm life and in instilling in the minds of the young a knowledge of the conditions under which the best results to the agriculturist can be achieved. It was hoped that the book would fully cover the points which could be most advantageously dealt with, and the use of it, he was satisfied, would do good and meet with the approval of the people at large. Another point of the bill was that it made preparation for the systematic instruction of the pupils attending the Common schools in the effects of alcohol and narcotics on the human

system. Under a regulation of 1885 the teacher was authorised to call the attention of the pupils to this subject—the desirability of cleanliness and attention to

##### THE LAWS OF HEALTH.

A text book on this subject had been prepared under the direction of the Board of Health, at the desire of the Department, which had proven of great benefit, giving the teachers systematised information. But this book was of too scientific a character to be used in the Public schools, and another text book of a less technical nature had been prepared for the use of the pupils in the Public schools. Similar instruction to this was given in seventeen States of the Union with excellent results, as shown by the reports of the schools and by the growing public feeling in favor of the system. With such instruction the youth of the Province would not in future fall into drinking habits without having some knowledge of what the results would be. He pointed out the bad effects, not only indirectly but directly, of alcoholism upon boys as shown by the records of vagrancy and crime among them, and urged that this system of instruction would tend to minimise this evil. Another provision of the bill was to establish

##### THE KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL SYSTEM

of the Province. It would provide against any person not authorised to do so setting himself or herself up as a kindergartener and receiving public moneys for instruction of that kind. If the system was worth trying it should be tested under the auspices of the Education Department of the Province, for only in that way could the advantages of it be fully brought out and a fair test given. He looked for the best results from the establishment of the kindergarten education as part of the system of the Province.

The bill was read the second time.

##### DRAINAGE LOANS.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved the second reading of the bill respecting interest on drainage loans to municipalities. Carried.

##### PUBLIC SCHOOLS BILL.

House again in Committee on the bill to amend the Act respecting Public schools.

Some discussion took place on the clause allowing an appeal from the ratepayers of a school district to the municipal council in relation to raising funds for the erection of a school-house, or a dwelling for the teacher, or the purchase of a site. Mr. Meredith objected to the clause as giving too arbitrary a power to the municipal councils. Hon. Mr. Ross said that the council would exercise its judgment in the matter. It might be that although the ratepayers voted down the proposition to expend moneys, a majority of those who were really interested in educational matters might be in favor of the expenditure.

The section was allowed to stand, and the committee rose and reported progress.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that it was proposed that when the House adjourns on Thursday it should adjourn until Tuesday. He thought they might fairly count that when the House met again that week would be quite sufficient to finish the business. He proposed also that they adjourn at six to-day. It was finally decided that the House should meet at two on Thursday and adjourn at four, in order to allow the Western members to reach their homes before Good Friday.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.