

schools above the Public schools. In a sense it was perfectly true that they were educating Young Canada above his business. If the young people educated themselves or paid for their own education no one could find fault.

Mr. CRAIG found that a majority of those attending the Collegiate Institute in Port Hope were the children of poor parents. There need be no fear of educating Young Canada above his business, as was suggested, for there were always found people willing to do the work which required but little education.

Mr. GIBSON contended that if a fifth form were established in the Public schools so many High schools as now existed would not be necessary.

Hon. G. W. ROSS invited the House to compare the present grants with those made in 1871.

Mr. GIBSON—Take 1873.

Hon. Mr. ROSS said he had not the figures of 1873 at hand, but the comparison with 1871 would be instructive in its way. The grant to Public schools had increased since that time \$54,000, while that of the High schools had increased only \$22,000. It should not be forgotten that the High schools carried out the work of preparing the teachers for the Public schools, and it was manifest that the standard could not be reduced even by a shade without that deterioration reflecting itself at once in the Public schools. By turning out good teachers to carry on the work of education in the Public schools they secured better results than could otherwise be secured from the grants to the Public schools. One-third of the grant to the High schools might be regarded as applied direct to the training of teachers, for there were in these schools that proportion of young people preparing for the profession. But this was by no means all that the High schools accomplished, for they trained young people for other pursuits. It was possible now for a pupil to have a commercial course or to study agricultural chemistry and other branches of special value to farmers. Last year 327 pupils graduated from the High schools to the University. The higher education system must get its supply from somewhere. It was well worth remembering that no country had so good a system of higher education taken, altogether, as Ontario. Except in the classics some of the Collegiate Institutes were doing work not inferior to that of the University thirty or forty years ago. It was a mistake to suppose that the inspiration of education came from the primary institutions. It came from the great educational institutions of a country. Oxford and Cambridge kept alive the literary spirit in England when the people generally were sunk in ignorance. The same good work had been done for Scotland by the University of Edinburgh, of which the hon. member for Huron was so proud. There seemed of late years to be a change in public opinion on the subject of fees. In 1876 there were only 34 High schools that charged fees. Now there were 51. He had no objection to this tendency. He might outline a system which he expected to propose to the House, perhaps not next session, or even the next, of a uniform system of fees.

Mr. GIBSON—That is all I ask.

Hon. Mr. ROSS said that in relation to the Public schools, the question of fees had been fought out, and the people would not go back to the old system. But High schools were in a somewhat different position. Many of those who attend are there to acquire the means of livelihood. There was no good reason that he could see why a teacher should be given his profession at the public expense any more than a blacksmith. Where there were two High schools in neighboring towns, neither cared to charge fees because of the fear that the pupils would go to the other. But if a uniform compulsory fee were established this difficulty would be overcome. He intended to consider the matter fully and carefully, but hoped when the public was ready for it to introduce a measure on this subject. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CLANCY expressed the opinion that after children had passed the High school examination their education in the Public schools was neglected, so that they had no alternative but to leave school or to attend the High schools.

Mr. BALFOUR said that he was sure the County of Kent, which Mr. Clancy represented, would not oppose the increase of grants to the High schools. The Council of the County of Kent had granted in one year \$5,000 more than they were required by law to grant.

Mr. CLANCY said he had not made any attack upon the grants to High schools.

Mr. AWREY said that the County of Wentworth was a rural county, and yet they had petitioned for an increase of the grants to High schools. As a rule these schools were emphatically the schools of the poor; the great majority of those who attended them were the children of mechanics and farmers.

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) said he stood there to speak for the masses, and he held that the High schools were for the masses. In his county (Huron) the average distance of the High schools from the farmers was too great

for them to take advantage of them.

Mr. WATERS spoke warmly of the High schools, but said there was a tendency against fifth book classes, arising from the fact that as soon as children passed the entrance examination to the High schools, it was expected that they would no longer attend the Public schools.

Hon. G. W. ROSS said there did seem to be a tendency to allow the Common school education to terminate with the fourth class, and the department could only resist that by pointing out the importance of maintaining fifth forms. Where they were required, as a rule, the advanced pupil obtained a better education in the High school than in the fifth form of the Public school. It had been said that the grants to Public schools had not increased since 1876, while the grants to High schools had increased 25 per cent. But it was to be remarked that the Public school attendance had decreased from 490,000 in 1876 to 487,000 in 1886, while in the same period the High school attendance had increased from 8,541 to 15,344.

The remainder of the items under the head of education were passed. The committee rose and the House adjourned at 9 p.m.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. French—Inquiry of Ministry—Is it the intention to furnish each magistrate, free of charge, the two volumes of the new revised statutes or merely a separate volume containing the municipal law and the laws relating to the duties of justices of the peace?

Mr. Ross (Middlesex)—Bill to enable trustees of High schools and Collegiate institutes to expropriate lands for High school purposes.

Mr. Phelps—Bill to amend the Assessment Act.

#### Private Bills.

The Committee on Private Bills met yesterday, and reported a bill respecting Trinity church, Toronto; a bill enabling the Town of Almonte to issue debentures, and a bill to enable the Orphan Asylum, Ottawa, to borrow money.

#### The Northern Districts.

Deputations from Huntsville and Burk's Falls waited upon the Attorney-General yesterday, each urging the formation of a district of which it should be the centre. The Burk's Falls people think that the northern part of the unorganised districts should form a separate district. The Huntsville delegation say that Huntsville is central, has splendid water power and good buildings available for judicial purposes.

#### A Deputation from the Grange.

The Attorney-General and the Treasurer were spoken to last evening by a deputation from the Dominion Grange—Messrs. Walter Moffat, master, Robert Walker, R. Wilkes, A. A. Meyers and Clendenning—who were introduced by Mr. Waters, M.P. Their first request was in regard to taxation, that the Assessment Act should be so amended as to allow moneys and money values to be assessed at their actual cash values; and failing that, that farm stock and the produce of the farm be exempt from taxation for municipal purposes in townships. They represented that a heavy burden of taxation lay upon farm lands and farm produce, while bank stocks and other property escaped taxation. They thought that the mortgagee of a farm should be taxed instead of the mortgagor, who now had to pay both taxes and interest.

Mr. Ross pointed out the extreme difficulty of collecting the tax from the mortgagors.

After some further discussion on this point the deputation explained the second request, namely, that the term for which mutual fire companies may assume be extended from three to five years. It was next explained to the Minister that the grange was opposed to manhood suffrage, or to giving the suffrage to non-taxpayers. They feared that a Legislature elected by manhood suffrage would soon introduce manhood suffrage into municipal elections.

The Ministers pointed out that the present system was practically manhood suffrage, the only difference being that actual manhood suffrage would do away with a great deal of expense, trouble and perplexity.

#### Railway Committee.

The bill to extend the time for the completion of the Saugeen Valley railway (Mr. Biggar) was passed without important amendment. The extension is for five years from the expiry of the date previously fixed, 7th March next. Mr. Leys' bill to legalise the by-law of the Town of Sault Ste. Marie granting a bonus to the Canadian Pacific was passed, as was also Mr. Fell's bill to authorise the Township of Bexley to issue new debentures to retire outstanding debentures issued in order to grant aid to the Toronto & Nipissing railway.

#### ASSEMBLY NOTES.

THE AFTERNOON began in a benignant calm, and closed in tumult and fireworks. Mr. Meredith was in a genial and mildly triumphant mood, and as the House was quietly plodding on in supply, he ventured to charge the Government with employing detectives to hunt for evidences of Tory corruption, and hinted that the Reform party offered a large field for the prosecution of their operations.

Mr. Mowat gave a prompt denial to the insinuation that detectives were so employed.

Mr. Meredith then had an impression that the Attorney-General had advised fighting the devil with fire.

Mr. Fraser jumped up, and in his pitiless, incisive way threw back upon the Opposition leader his charge against the general purity of the Liberal party. He reminded the House in ringing sentences that no Liberal leader had been found guilty of corruption and forced to abandon his seat. The Liberals cheered wildly and Mr. Fraser struck home again. He stretched his left hand toward Mr. Meredith and with penetrating irony he taunted him with his promise to see Weekes through. The taunt touched Mr. Meredith on the raw, and called forth a fierce denial from the Opposition leader. But Mr. Fraser was not as ready to accept as Mr. Meredith was to deny. He cruelly persisted that the sworn evidence before the magistrate sustained the charge, and that at any rate the Opposition leader had done what he could to see Weekes through. He also reminded the House that Mr. Meredith had entered into a solemn engagement to impeach Mr. Pardee before Parliament and the Courts, and that he had gone into Court and paid the costs. He charged also that the Dominion Government had debauched public sentiment and corrupted the country from end to end.

The speech was not long, but it was one of Mr. Fraser's most vigorous advances upon the enemy, and it put the Liberals into great spirits for pushing on the battle.

Then Mr. Waters, who was at the meeting where Mr. Meredith hinted the statement was made, denied that Mr. Mowat had recommended fighting the devil with fire, and Mr. Mowat indignantly repudiated the sentiment and called forth a long roll of applause from his followers as he declared that his whole course as a legislator and his whole practice as a public man were against resort to corrupt means to influence elections.

Next Mr. Creighton entered a feeble protest against bestowing public offices on political corruptionists, and then Mr. Awrey in a few trenchant sentences quoted from Sir John Macdonald's recent speech at Quebec, in which he brazenly admitted that he bribed the people with their own money, rubbed up Mr. Meredith's memory as to the scandalous revelations which resulted in Mr. Faugier's disqualification, and mentioned also that two Federal Ministers had pleaded guilty of bribery by agents in order to escape an inquiry into the personal charges preferred against them.

Then Mr. Hardy intervened with a rattling, vigorous protest against Mr. Meredith's attempt to elevate the Tory party into a party of purity. He pointed out that both Reform members that have been disqualified were graduated from the Tory party; that all the money proved to have been illegally spent in the interests of Liberal candidates did not amount to a hundred dollars; and that the Tory party had declared that they would have for their leader only the King Corruptionist of Canadian politics.

After this, Mr. French enlarged on Gleggery; Mr. Rayside protested that too severe a measure of condemnation was visited upon Mr. Percell; Mr. H. E. Clarke declared that he was not bound to defend Sir John Macdonald, but he always does it; and Mr. Evanturel, of Prescott, roused prolonged laughter by the story of Charley Mackintosh's kicking competition with Mrs. McDonald, of Russell.

All the kickers are not in the Liberal party. Nor are all the corruptionists.

The debate was keen, live and full of entertainment for the galleries. It was a message of deliverance to the Government's supporters, who mourn that the Opposition has become so nearly a corpse that it would be an act of charity to give it public burial. And if the debate had gone on and the operations of Bunting's Brood had been revived, and that little disagreement between Mr. Meredith and Mr. Merrick had been recalled, the Opposition leader would be sadder even than he is over the unfortunate reference which provoked the debate. Besides, he may have to submit to a reprimand from his leader. He is not a friend of the Tory party who raises a discussion on the basis of its purity.