

pecially after Mr. Waters crossed the floor of the House to hold a short consultation with the mover. Mr. Garson did not offer any further resistance, and consequently the order was discharged. It did not appear that there was any discourtesy shown to the motion, but there was a feeling that the question of the enfranchisement of women received a fair share of the attention of the House, at least during the present session.

WENTWORTH ROADS.

Mr. McMahon moved for an address to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for a return of copies of any correspondence between the Ontario and Dominion Governments, or between the former and any corporation or persons, relating to the ownership, sale or lease of the Dundas & Waterloo macadamised road, together with copies of any papers in the possession of the Government relating thereto, subsequent to that already brought down in the year 1886.

Mr. McMahon supported his motion in an able speech, after which it was allowed to pass.

SUPERANNATED TEACHERS.

Mr. Blyth moved for an order of the House for a return showing in detail the number of Public school teachers who have accepted the terms heretofore imposed in regard to the superannuation fund and have withdrawn one-half of the amount paid in; the number of teachers who have not accepted the terms, and showing to what purposes the sums not already withdrawn are devoted, or how funded.

Mr. Ross explained that the Act of Dr. Ryerson's was that if a teacher desired to withdraw from the profession he could demand one-half of the amount contributed by him. There were no complaints, so far as he knew; and the annual report of the Education Department went to prove that contention. It was a well-known fact that teachers only received two or three cents for every dollar they paid into the fund; and to their credit he would say that no complaint had been heard by his department as to any injustice done them in the distribution of the fund. He consented that the motion should be allowed.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

HIGH SCHOOLS.

ANOTHER INTERESTING DEBATE ON THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

After the six o'clock adjournment the first question taken up was Mr. Dance's resolution anent High schools, which is as follows:—

That this House, recognising that the High schools and Collegiate Institutes of this Province have in the past proved of great service to education, and while not questioning the necessity of their being maintained in an efficient condition, is of opinion that the time has arrived when such schools should be more largely supported by fees, and that the law be so amended as to make it compulsory that fees should be charged to pupils attending such schools.

The Minister of Education, in making a few comments on the resolution, said that he was always in favor of trustees imposing a fee on pupils availing themselves of High schools, commensurate with the advantages they were receiving. He understood that this course was pursued in many schools. It was not the intention of the Government to amend the High School Act this session, but if they were called upon to do so in future the motion of the member for East Elgin would receive the consideration it deserved.

Mr. Metcalfe was not in favor of any policy that would not lead towards making our High and Public schools free to all the children of the land. Education should be as free as possible.

Mr. Meredith believed that the High School Act should remain as it is, because it would be unjust to London, Kingston and other places to be compelled to impose fees on pupils attending these schools.

Mr. A. F. Wood favored imposing a uniform rate on High school pupils throughout the Province, stating that special rates in certain schools was not fair to other schools where no burdensome fees were exacted.

Mr. Gibson (Huron) maintained that the Public school system was the only one the Government should foster. The Government's duty was to see that every child got a good English education. If it went beyond that it was class legislation. The Government was going further in this direction already than he wished. Its support of the High schools was going up and that of the Public schools was going slowly down. This was partly responsible for that crowding of professions of which they heard so much. In Great Britain there was no support whatever given to what was called "secondary education." The primary educational system was supported there at the rate of about \$4 50 per head as against the trifling amount paid by the Ontario Government towards schools of this order. He thought

those members that had High schools at their doors were most in favor of free High schools, not the others. He wanted a fee imposed on everybody attending a High school. Rather than increase the support at present given to the High school system he would diminish it. The Government grant to High schools, he thought, would be better applied than at present if it were devoted to building railways in undeveloped sections.

Dr. McLaughlin believed in a free Public school and a free High school. He had in his mind's eye many a worthy young man, now filling a responsible position, who would have been unable to rise from poverty and attain his present place had he been confronted with fees everywhere and at every step, but who by reason of the advantages of free schools had been enabled to achieve what success belonged to them. He had been in Scotland and in England, too, and had paid considerable attention to educational matters there. As Mr. Gibson had said, they did not aid higher education there. The consequence was, so far as he could see, that poor children had no chance, or very little chance indeed, of attaining those positions which could not be filled save by aid of a liberal education. That was a condition he did not want to see in this country.

Mr. Craig regretted that the member for East Huron expressed himself so strongly against High schools. There was no agitation against High schools, the country being perfectly satisfied with the present system. No argument was adduced to show that the Government should pass a law compelling High school trustees to impose fees on pupils, and for his part he would oppose any such policy. If the question were considered it would be found that the improvement noticeable in the character of the Public school teachers of the Province was due to the class of work done by the High schools of the Province. He was glad to bear testimony to the efficiency of our High schools and Collegiate Institutes and would not be a party towards doing anything to retard the progress of schools upon which, to a large extent, the Public schools depended.

Mr. Dack spoke in favor of State aid being given to our High school system and held that it was desirable that fees should be compulsory in order to secure uniformity. In Bruce County the High school boards had fixed fees and were pleased with the result. He thought the Public school grants should be the primary consideration of the Government and that exceptional aid should be made to all Public schools in which a fifth form was taught. He would like the Public school grants to be increased all round.

Mr. Waters said that if the Province curtailed its High school grant it would necessitate the establishment of one or two more Normal schools, which would cost more. At the same time the poor would be debarred from a higher education, while the rich would not then any more than at any other time feel the difficulties in the way of getting it. Mr. Gibson, of Huron, did not feel the want of higher education, because he had received a fair share of it in the parish schools of Scotland, where an education was given that would enable the pupil to matriculate at the average university. But this was not the case with the Public schools here.

Mr. Gibson—No; but we want to make it so; it should be so.

Mr. Waters concluded by saying that he hoped nothing would be done to injure the High school system, nor in any way to throw barriers in the way of the humblest and poorest of boys attaining the highest positions.

Mr. Harcourt felt that the people of the Province had reason to congratulate themselves that their school system works with such smoothness. Our educational system is thoroughly under the control of the people from the rural school to the collegiate institute. On entering upon his argument Mr. Harcourt said that he did not understand the remarks of the member for East Huron to be in any way dictated from a desire to cripple the efficiency of the High schools. He wanted the Public schools to be improved. (Hear, hear.) It was apparent to all educationists that it would be better that there should be fewer High schools and more collegiate institutes, although all our High schools were in a highly efficient state. The result of establishing a class for teaching the fifth book in Public schools would be damaging to the pupils in the elementary forms, and consequently a serious injury would be done to our Public school system. It was not fair to say that the members of the learned profession were receiving the principal advantages from our educational system, because a careful study would show that the mechanics of our town

largely share in the benefits of secondary education, while the professions benefited but little by them. The House ought to well consider before enacting a law compelling trustees to impose fees on High school pupils. (Applause.) He himself favored allowing the governing board of every High school to settle the matter for itself.

Dr. Meacham said that if all the fifth form scholars even thought of entering the High school there would not be room for them, unless the number of High schools was largely increased. The only way in which all the children of the Province could be given opportunity to receive a liberal education was to elevate the standard and increase the efficiency of the Common school.

Mr. A. F. Wood, adding a few words to what he had previously said, remarked that in advocating a general High school rate he did not wish to be understood as asking to have the grant diminished. He wanted the grant continued and the compulsory rate imposed in addition.

Mr. Lees, of Lanark, made some remarks that were inaudible in the gallery.

Mr. Dance then made some closing comments and withdrew his motion.

DISCOVERY OF GOLD.

Mr. Whitney called for correspondence subsequent to previous returns, relating to the discovery of gold in lot number 9, in the ninth concession of Marmora, and the report of Government claims and judicial and other decisions in the matter.

Mr. Wood, of Hastings, thought no good purpose was served by the motion.

Mr. Hardy thought it was useless stirring up such a very old matter, but consented to the motion.

THE ANATOMY ACT.

THE OBNOXIOUS CLAUSE AMENDED AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION.

The House then went into committee on the bill to amend the Act respecting the study of anatomy.

The clause that proposes to amend the present law so that dead bodies found under the circumstances set forth in the original Act may be claimed by relatives only, and not by friends, was much discussed. Dr. McKay, in moving this section, defended it. Mr. Guthrie opposed it strongly, pointing out how hardly it was liable to act in a country in which there were so many immigrants, young men, many of them without a relative in the country. They might have made scores of friends, but there would be nobody to keep their body from the dissecting-table. Dr. Willoughby, in defending the clause, remarked that there was too much prejudice against the dissecting room. Mr. Awrey agreed with Mr. Guthrie, and suggested several cases in which the section would bear very hardly on many people, an old-time servant, a life-long friend, etc., dying without relatives, and the master or employer or friend unable to have the body buried. Mr. Awrey remarked also that the inmates of the lunatic asylums, those of them who could read and understand, had, he understood, heard of the bill, and were in great trouble in consequence. Mr. Fraser thought the medical gentlemen who were amending the Act were going a little too far. The section under discussion was too severe. Surely some machinery could be found that would enable a real and honest friend to claim the body of the deceased and have it interred. Dr. McLaughlin agreed with the Commissioner partly, but pointed out how necessary it would be that the clause were altered in the manner suggested, care should be taken that the friends allowed to claim bodies should be friends to all intents and purposes and not simply for that occasion only. Mr. A. F. Wood wanted the clause amended in the manner proposed. He thought the inmates of the asylum no more likely to be affected by the prospects of their bodies being dissected under the provisions of the bill than they are at the idea of undergoing the post-mortem examination to which many of them are subjected. Mr. Guthrie here introduced a new point into the discussion by insisting that the Government had no more right to seize a man's body than to seize his property and bestow it on another person. The State was only entitled to the body of a man when it was liable to become a public charge. The bill proposed to give the State power to seize and bestow bodies that friends, not the public, would bear the expense of burying. Mr. Garson entered his protest, too, against the bill. Then the chief promoter, Dr. McKay, put in his defence. He asked the House to give the medical profession a chance to enable it to keep up to its present high standard, or even to improve it. They wanted only the privileges accorded the profession in most other countries. He would be the first to