

olx March 6th

midnight and moved the adjournment of the debate.

The motion prevailed and the House immediately adjourned.

PUBLIC AND SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

The following is the full text of the bill introduced by Hon. G. W. Ross to amend the Public and Separate Schools Act:—

(First) The clerk of every municipality shall forthwith after the passing of this Act, enter in a convenient index book, and in alphabetical order, the name of every person who has given to him or any former clerk of the municipality notice in writing that such a person is a Roman Catholic and a supporter of a Separate School in or contiguous to the municipality, as provided by the fortieth section of the Separate School Act, or previous Acts respecting Separate Schools; the clerk shall also enter opposite to the name, and in a column for this purpose, the date on which the notice was received, and in a third column, opposite the name, any notice by such person of withdrawal from supporting a Separate School, as provided by the 47th section of the said Act, or any such other Act as aforesaid, with the date of such withdrawal; or any disallowance of the notice by the Court of Revision or County Judge, with the date of such disallowance. The index book may be in the Form A to this Act, and shall be open to inspection by rate-payers.

(Second) The clerk shall enter in the same book, and in the proper alphabetical place therein, all such notices hereafter from time to time received by the clerk.

(Third) It shall be the duty of the clerk to file and carefully preserve all such notices which have been heretofore received, or shall hereafter be received.

(2) In the case of a municipality in which there are supporters of a Roman Catholic Separate School therein, or contiguous thereto, there shall be printed in conspicuous characters, or written across or on the assessor's notice to every ratepayer, provided for by the 47th section of the Assessment Act, and set forth in schedule B to the said Act, in addition to the proper entry heretofore named, to be made in the column respecting the school tax, the following words:—"You are assessed as a Separate School supporter," or "You are assessed as a Public School supporter," as the case may be; or these words may be added to the notice of the ratepayer set forth in the said schedule.

(3) Where the list required by the first section of this Act is prepared, the assessor is to be guided thereby in ascertaining who have given the notices which are by law necessary, in order to entitle supporters of Roman Catholic Separate Schools to exemption from the Public School tax.

(4) The statement made under the second sub-section of the 48th section of the Separate School Act, or the fourteenth sub-section of the Assessment Act, means, and has always meant, a statement made to the assessor on behalf of the ratepayer, by his authority, and not otherwise.

(5) In case of its appearing to the Municipal Council of any municipality after the final revision of the assessment roll that, through some mistake or inadvertence, any ratepayers have been placed on the wrong school tax column, either as supporters of Separate Schools or supporters of Public Schools, it shall be competent for the Municipal Council, after due inquiry and notice, to correct such errors if such Council sees fit, by directing the amount of the tax of such ratepayers to be paid to the proper School Board. But it shall not be competent for the Council to reverse the decision of the Court of Revision or the County Court Judge as to any ratepayer.

(Second) In case of such action by a Municipal Council the ratepayer shall be liable for the same amount of school tax as if he had in the first instance been entered on the roll properly.

SCHEDULE.

Form of index book for Roman Catholic Separate School supporters.

Names.	Notices claiming exemption from Public School tax, when received.	Remarks.
Allen, John.....	3rd Feb., 1889.	Notice of withdrawal received 1st Jan., 1890.
Ardagh, Joseph..	3rd Feb., 1889.	Disallowed by Court of Revision, 1st June, 1889.
Armstrong, Robt.	3rd Feb., 1889.	

THE EXEMPTIONS BILL.

The bill introduced by the Hon. A. M. Ross respecting exemptions from municipal

assessments is as follows:—

(1) Land on which a place of worship is erected, and land used in connection with a place of worship, shall be liable to be assessed in the same way and to the same extent as other land, for local improvements hereafter made or to be made. (R. S. O. ch. 184, s. 626, etc.; ch. 193, s. 7 (3).

(2) The stipends or salaries of clergymen and ministers of religion, and parsonages or dwellings occupied by them with the lands attached thereto, shall be liable to assessment for all municipal purposes in the same manner, and to the same extent, as the incomes, dwellings and property of other persons. The article numbered 25 of the 7th section of the Assessment Act is hereby repealed. (R. S. O. c. 193, s. 7, (23) (25).

(3) The buildings and grounds of and attached to a university, college or other incorporated seminary of learning, whether vested in a trustee or otherwise, shall be liable to be assessed in the same manner and to the same extent as other land is assessed for local improvements hereafter made or to be made. This section does not apply to schools which are maintained in whole or in part by a Legislative grant or a school tax. (R. S. O. c. 193, s. 7 (4).

(4) In the case of persons carrying on a mercantile or other business in a municipality, the Municipal Council of the municipality may pass by-laws substituting, in respect of any class or classes of mercantile business, a business tax for the taxes on so much of the personal property of the ratepayer as belongs to the business, provided that such business tax do not exceed seven and a half per cent. of the annual value of the premises in which the business is carried on. (R. S. O. c. 193, s. 7 (21).

(5) This Act shall be read as part of the Municipal Act and the Assessment Act respectively as hereby and otherwise amended.

(6) This Act shall go into force on the first day of January next after the passing thereof.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Stewart—Inquiry—Whether it is the intention of the Government to cause an investigation to be held with a view of ascertaining what has become of the large sum unaccounted for by the late Police Magistrate for the County of Dufferin from fines imposed by him for the years 1886 and 1887.

Mr. Leys—Bill to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Ingram—Bill to amend [the Assessment Act.

Mr. Ballantyne—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. French—Bill to amend the Partition Act.

Mr. Graham—Bill to amend the Municipal Act to prevent litigation arising out of accidents occurring on public highways.

Mr. Smith (York)—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

NOTES.

The first Government caucus of the session was held in the morning, in room No. 16. It is understood that matters affecting education were the principal subjects of discussion. The Premier announced that legislation would be introduced distinctly carrying out the well-defined intention of the Legislature regarding the amendments made to the Separate School Law. The doubts raised regarding the proper notice to be given by Separate School supporters will be removed by making the clauses read so plain that even the ordinary layman cannot be mistaken as to their intention. The Government will oppose the bill introduced by Mr. Meredith providing for vote by ballot at Public and Separate School elections. It is not unlikely that legislation will also be proposed removing tax exemption on buildings so far as local improvements are concerned. The policy of the Government on all questions submitted received the cordial endorsement of their supporters.

The Attorney-General was waited on by a deputation advocating the claims of the Ontario & Sault Ste. Marie Railway to financial aid. They were:—R. W. Elliott, Robert Jafray, Wm. Christie, H. N. Baird, E. Wragge, D. W. Alexander, A. B. Lee and John Leys, M.P.P. They explained that the road starts from Burk's Falls and will run to Sault Ste. Marie, a distance of 250 miles, and from the latter place to Sudbury, a distance of 30 miles. The Legislature had set apart \$840,000 for any road to be constructed through the proposed route, and the object of the deputation was to secure this grant as well as additional aid to the Ontario & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company. They explained the importance of opening up the territory through which the road will run, claiming that it would be of immense importance to all of Eastern Ontario. The Attorney-General listened attentively to the representations made,

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