

The following bills were read a second time:—

To incorporate the Aylmer & Port Burwell Railway Company—Mr. Dance.

To incorporate the Town of Gore Bay—Mr. Lyon.

Respecting the Town of West Toronto Junction—Dr. Gilmour.

Respecting the Sarnia Gas Company—Mr. Mackenzie.

TEXT-BOOKS AGAIN.

Mr. Creighton then resumed the debate on Mr. Preston's motion regarding text-books. He again referred to the Third Reader, and was met by a chorus of voices demanding the particular extract to which he took objection. He, then, in his own dramatic style, read the account given of the Battle of Queenstown Heights in the old reader, and which he maintained should be incorporated in the present text-book. The object of Mr. Creighton, as he himself said, was to demonstrate that the Minister of Education did not provide articles which inculcated patriotism. The member for North Grey then produced half a dozen drawing books, and tragically laid them on his desk. These he picked up one after another, and solemnly declared he had purchased them at such-and-such a place for the sum of ten cents, with which remark he examined book after book on his neighbor's desk, with a manner expressive of the utmost indignation and contempt. His "ten cent" argument was speedily caught up by the Government benches, who contributed a lusty chorus to Mr. Creighton's refraining "ten cents" as he dashed down the last two or three of the books over which he had been so extravagant.

Mr. Harcourt followed Mr. Creighton, and delivered one of the most brilliant speeches of the session. Every argument urged by Mr. Creighton was taken up and dissected mercilessly, and not only that, but a torrent of the ridicule to which he had laid himself so palpably open was poured relentlessly upon his drooping head. Mr. Harcourt started out by remarking that if a monopoly did exist in Canada in school books or anything else, the responsibility for the same rested entirely with hon. gentlemen opposite and their friends elsewhere. They had planted the upas tree, and watered it, and were responsible for any evils it might cause. They were hardly the men to speak in condemnation of a monopoly. Mr. Harcourt then proceeded to score one of his best points. Mr. Creighton, he said, had the other day professed himself proudly responsible for everything that appeared in the paper which he edited. Now, in that case he was responsible for the following paragraph which appeared on the eighth page of The Empire of August 31st, 1889, under the heading of "A Cut in School Books":—

A cut in the price of school books is the latest cause of excitement in the trade. It is stated that the cut has reached 20 per cent., which practically wipes out all profit on this class of goods. A deputation has waited upon the publishers, Messrs. Gage & Co., The Copp-Clark Co. and the Canada Publishing Co., but these firms are powerless in the matter. The only hope is that the retail dealers will themselves shortly regain a condition of normal common sense.

This extract was read amid loud applause from the Government benches, which increased as Mr. Harcourt proceeded to ask the member for North Grey whether he was willing to accept the responsibility for this paragraph, to which, however, Mr. Creighton made no reply. Mr. Harcourt said that in a measure this statement quoted from the paper managed by Mr. Creighton was really a reply to all the arguments that gentleman had advanced. He would, however, continue for a few minutes to discuss these arguments. What object, he asked, would the Government have in authorising text-books of a useless character. At the head of the Government was the Attorney-General, who for seventeen years had ruled the Province with the approval of the electorate. All his public measures were actuated by a desire to give to the Province an administration of public affairs conducive to the general interests. Mr. Harcourt then gave the House the conclusions which he himself had arrived at regarding the merits of the text-books now in use in the Public Schools. After comparing them with those in use in the United States, he had come to the conclusion that they were infinitely superior to any in use in the States of the Union. The text-books were indorsed by the Inspectors and Trustees of the Public Schools. The Trustees take an intelligent interest in these questions now, and their judgment in approval of the policy adopted by the Education Department regarding the publication of school books ought to carry a good deal of weight. Then Mr. Harcourt proceeded to discuss the charge of disloyalty which Mr. Creighton had preferred against the Minister of Education and those who agreed with him, because a certain extract he had read did not appear in a certain

right Mr. Creighton or anybody else had to bring a charge of disloyalty against a whole party. Much less right had he or anybody else to bring such a charge against the Reform party. The only instance, so far as he could recall to his mind, where the representatives of a party had burned the Parliament buildings and assaulted the Parliament buildings, was one in which the party had boasted loudly of their loyalty, and he was happy to recollect that those super-loyal people had no representatives on his side of the house. (Applause.) A learned essayist in one of the reviews recently had described loyalty as a sub-religion. If it was not actually as sacred as religion itself with Mr. Creighton, it was at least a sub-religion with him. What did he mean by loyalty? Loyalty to Ontario? If so, speaking with all fairness and all charity to the hon. gentleman, he would say that he could not credit him with loyalty to his Province. (Applause.) He would go further, and say that he believed, if time would allow he could show, that he had been in several instances disloyal to the Province of Ontario. He admitted that Mr. Creighton was loyal to Toryism, but that was not loyalty to his country. Now, regarding his allegations that the Third or Fourth Readers were deficient in articles that would inspire a national sentiment. He agreed that ordinary prominence should be given to such a subject and he insisted that it was not wanting in the school text-books.

There was a time when there was a great want of a Canadian history, one that would place Canadian history in a true light before the children of the country, and then there was indeed great need for such articles in the readers as Mr. Creighton had suggested. But they had a history now which placed all these things before the children in a proper light and there was no need to place them in the readers. This history had never been compulsory until 1883. Then Mr. Harcourt held up the reader, the Third, which Mr. Creighton had condemned as containing nothing Canadian. First of all he referred to Tom Moore's Canadian boat song. Did he know of anything more inspiring in the literature of Canada than that simple lyric, which dealt with the grandest characteristic of our Province—its great water stretches and grand lakes and rivers? The Third Reader contained this choicest of lyrics, and it was hardly possible that Mr. Creighton could have avoided seeing it, though he had not referred to it. Mr. Harcourt mentioned other articles, such as one on the beaver, another on the maple, both of them typical of Canadian life and sentiment. This flag that Mr. Creighton wants unfurled over Public Schools on certain days in the year—and he was with him in that wish, for he wanted the youth of Canada to understand that they were sharers in all the glories of the greatest nation of the world—this flag would have upon it the maple leaf, the emblem par excellence of Canadian life, and yet the hon. gentleman had not seen or had not mentioned the article on that subject either, but simply had stated that the book contained nothing to develop Canadian sentiment. A few minutes later Mr. Harcourt took up one of Mr. Creighton's copy books, which he had so dramatically declared he had paid ten cents for, and, holding it up so that both sides of the House could see the front page, he showed that plainly printed across the face of it, large enough to be read ten yards away, were the words "price six cents." The speaker had a good deal of fun here at Mr. Creighton's expense, and pictured him toiling from shop to shop in search of these ten-cent copy books, which any little boy could have bought for six cents. Mr. Creighton was not in his seat at this point, and Mr. Harcourt expressed his regret for his absence while he was showing how he had been taken in to the extent of four cents on each of these copybooks he had bought. The truth was, Mr. Harcourt went on, that Ontario is particularly fortunate in respect to the text-books of the Public Schools. There is no agitation in the Province against the present system, but there is a very marked approval of all that has been done in cheapening school books, and furnishing teachers and schools with the most enlightened methods of imparting and acquiring knowledge. He again referred to the document giving the history of text-books, and argued that the charge made against the experts, regarding the subject of being officials of the Department, did not diminish their opinions in the eyes of the country.

Mr. Clancy said that he also bought a drawing text-book for which he paid ten cents. He maintained that the people of the country were getting discontented with the policy of the Education Department regarding text-books, and he predicted that