

Mr. Marter moved several amendments to the bill in line with the ideas he had advocated a day or two earlier. They were all defeated by the usual Government majority. Mr. Armstrong voted against the Government on two divisions and Mr. Cruess forsook his party on the same number of occasions.

The bill was then read a third time.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACT.

The Attorney-General's bill respecting the custody of juvenile offenders was considered in Committee, and the Attorney-General availed himself of the occasion to reply to a question Mr. French had on the order paper as to the vacancy in the Protestant chaplaincy of the Reformatory for Boys at Penetanguishene. The Attorney-General replied briefly showing that there had been no grievance in the case; that Mr. Anderson, the predecessor of the recent incumbent, Mr. Lloyd, had been in the office ten or twelve years. He had heard and knew of no grievance. Mr. French understood there was some trouble in connection with Mr. Steadman, the Deputy Warden, but the Attorney-General said such a suggestion was new to him. The bill was then put through Committee and read a third time.

MR. DRYDEN'S DOG BILL.

When Mr. Dryden's bill to amend the Act to impose a tax on dogs, and for the protection of sheep, came up for third reading, Mr. Monk moved the amendment with which he had threatened the House a day or two before, to the effect that a Municipal Council shall have the right, upon the petition of fifty ratepayers, to exempt the municipality from the operation of the annual dog tax. The amendment was defeated on the following division:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Armstrong, Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, H.E. (Toronto), Creighton, Cruess, Dance, Drury, Evanturel, Ferguson, Fraser, French, Hammell, Hess, Hudson, Mack, Marter, Meredith, Monk, Morgan, Mowat, O'Connor, Ostrom, Preston, Robillard, Torke, Smith (Frontenac), Stewart, Sprague, Tooley, Whitney, Willoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—34.

NAYS.—Messrs. Allan, Awrey, Balfour, Balfour, Bishop, Blezard, Caldwell, Chisholm, Clarke (Wellington), Connee, Craig, Dack, Davis, Dryden, Field, Freeman, Garson, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Harcourt, Hardy, Ingram, Kerns, Lees, Leys, Lyon, McAndrew, McKay, McLaughlin, McMahon, Mackenzie, Master, Meacham, Metcalf, Miller, Morin, Murray, Phelps, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Smith (York), Snider, Stratton, Waters, Wood (Brant)—48.

Mr. Waters then moved the six months hoist to the same bill, which was lost on the following division:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Armstrong, Blyth, Caldwell, Cruess, Dack, Evanturel, Fraser, Garson, Hammell, Hess, Hudson, Ingram, Kerns, Monk, Morin, Morgan, O'Connor, Ostrom, Preston, Robillard, Stewart, Sprague, Tooley, Waters, Whitney, Willoughby, Wylie—27.

NAYS.—Messrs. Allan, Awrey, Balfour, Balfour, Bishop, Blezard, Chisholm, Clancy, H. E. Clarke (Toronto), Clarke (Wellington), Connee, Craig, Creighton, Dance, Davis, Drury, Dryden, Ferguson, Field, Freeman, French, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Harcourt, Hardy, Lees, Leys, Lyon, McAndrew, McKay, McLaughlin, McMahon, Mack, Mackenzie, Master, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalf, Miller, Mowat, Murray, Phelps, Torke, Ross (Huron),

Ross (Middlesex), Smith (York), Snider, Stratton, Wood (Hastings), Wood (Brant)—53.

Hon. Mr. Fraser then moved that the bill be amended by making the number of ratepayers mentioned in the clause to which Mr. Monk's amendment had reference twenty-five instead of fifty. This was accepted, the bill was recommitted while the amendment was made and was then read the third time and passed.

LAND SECURITY COMPANY.

Mr. Leys' private bill to amend the Acts relating to the Land Security Company was read a second time and passed without discussion.

THE FRENCH SCHOOLS BILL.

At about half-past nine o'clock Mr. Craig moved the second reading of the bill respecting the language of instruction in the Public and Separate Schools. He regretted, he said, that he had been obliged to move the second reading of the bill at so late a period of the session, but in view of the importance of the subject he felt justified in asking the attention of the House to this matter for as short a period as possible. He had no reason to be ashamed of bringing the bill up. The impression in the country was that he was amply justified in making the statements he had done in the past. The agitation that had taken place in the country and the discussion at Ottawa on this question had kept it prominently before the public mind. He remembered last year it was a part of the argument of the Minister of Education in favor of the continuation of the present system, when this subject was discussed, that French was an official language in the Northwest. He (Mr. Craig) was very glad that that would not be so very much longer. Last year he was much blamed for starting what was called a race cry. When he brought the matter forward last session he was very careful in the facts he stated to the House. He took particular care to confirm everything he brought before the House. He was extremely careful in collecting his facts—in seeing that they were absolutely correct. The object was not to create a race feeling in any way, but to bring about a state of things that would do away with race feeling entirely. This race feeling had existed in that part of the country to which he referred. He had in his hand a newspaper edited and published in the part of the country by Mr. Evanturel, M.P.P., and he noticed in that an article of an inflammatory character, exhorting the French people to vote at a municipal election for the French candidate. Instead of his being engaged in trying to stir up race feeling, they saw that other parties were engaged in doing so. That article threatened to hold up all French-Canadian electors in the Alfred S. Clarence districts to opprobrium in the event of their not voting for the candidate named. His desire was to see Ontario a united Province; to see French Canadians, Germans, Irish, Scotch and English welded together to form a Canadian people, and he desired to see them become real adherents to the Constitution, and he desired to see the English language continued as it was to-day in this Province. He was anxious to

see the French Canadians learning to talk English and mingling freely with their neighbors. He referred to the charges which he had made in the House last session and to the reply made by the Minister of Education, and to the appointment of the Commission to inquire into the French and German schools. He also quoted from an editorial in THE GLOBE to show that the state of affairs was regarded as satisfactory and that there was no need for change. The Government was obliged to appoint a Commission because of the dissatisfaction growing up in their own ranks. He thought more satisfaction would have been given to the country as to the work of this Commission if one at least of the three members of the Committee had been a Conservative. Being all Reformers, they naturally wanted to let the Minister of Education down lightly. He was, however, glad in a certain sense that the report of the Commission had justified his charges in the most complete manner. Mr. Craig then read from THE GLOBE a remark that stated that he had not referred to the German schools in his charges against the French schools. This he denied, referred to the notes he had used in last year's speech, and said that the writer of such a remark would write anything. Continuing on this point he said that Germans were Anglicised in language very quickly, and made no attempt to perpetuate their language at the expense of the English language. He denied the claim of the Minister of Education that every objection that applied to French would apply also to German. This claim had been preferred, he said, simply to divert attention from the Counties of Prescott and Russell, where the French schools' evil prevailed. He quoted from The Berlin News to prove his contention that the German schools were not conducted on anything like the same basis as the French schools, that English was given far greater prominence in the German schools and elsewhere. He said he had been charged with ignorance of the French schools in Essex. He was not ignorant of the fact, but had not given attention to those schools, because the evil was not nearly so flagrant. The evil in the schools in the East was so great that he had considered it a danger to the Province. Not so with those of Essex. He read from the report of the Commission to sustain his charge that many teachers in those eastern schools had been made to teach the English language, and dwelt at some length upon the consequent evil to the youth of the counties concerned. He commented upon the low grade of the teachers whom the Commissioners, according to their report, had found there, upon their general imperfect knowledge of English, and so on. He read also the Commissioners' remarks in regard to the English minority in those counties, and showed the difficulties by which they were surrounded. In twenty-four schools the Commission reported that one hour or less a day was devoted to teaching English. The position of the English minority in these districts was one of extreme difficulty, for they were unable to obtain sufficient education in English to fit themselves for a fair position in life. The remedy was to be found in making English the language of all the Public Schools of Ontario, in elevating the standard of the teachers and in requiring of them what the Commission recommended, not only that they should be able to teach English, which even many of them could not do last year, but that they should be able to speak English, and fluently. Discussing that clause of his bill which provided that where it is impracticable for a teacher to use English in teaching the children he may use French, Mr. Craig said he did not agree with those who claimed that children could not be taught English from their first entrance into the school. Young children could learn a new language much faster and better than older children. At the same time this clause provided for special cases. The seventh clause of the bill provided as follows:—

"And whereas, in certain portions of the Province it has been permitted for many years past that a language other than the English be taught in the schools, and it is expedient to make temporary provision with regard to the schools therein, it is therefore enacted that in those parts of the Province in which schools now exist wherein any language other than the English is taught, such other language may, until the Legislature shall otherwise enact, be continued to be taught for such period not exceeding one hour per day, as the Trustees may direct."

Mr. Craig said he hoped this clause would not long be necessary under the operation of the remainder of the bill. He complained of the difficulty of knowing just what the recent regulations of the Department were. It was hard to get at them. His bill would be found everywhere if enacted. He proposed to include Separate Schools under the operations of the bill he submitted as well as Public. This was done by the last clause, namely:—"All regulations of the Department of Education inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby abrogated and repealed." By this means they would obviate the objection advanced by some that if the Public Schools were deprived of the right of teaching French they would become Separate Schools. If Separate Schools were included in the operation of the bill, this could not be urged any longer. He knew of no regulations of the Department that would interfere with the working of the Act, but if they existed they should exist no longer. There should be no regulations that would conflict with the teaching of English in the schools of the Province. Mr. Craig then read extracts from the speech of the Minister of Education last year, and contended that they were proved inaccurate by some of the statements of the Commission. He referred particularly to the remarks of Mr. Ross as to the attainments of the children, the extent to which English was taught, the abilities of the teachers to teach English and the use of religious books of the Church of Rome during or after school hours. He claimed that he had been sustained by the Commission in his contention that "Le Syllabaire des Ecoles Chretiennes," a Roman Catholic book of instruction, had been used in the Public Schools during school hours, which contention the Minister had denied. It might not have been used in the particular school from which had come the telegram which the Minister had read to the House in support of his denial, but it was used in others. It might be urged that the Minister had been misled in this and other