

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Mr. Wilkinson, Secretary of the Toronto Public School Board, stated in his evidence that it is not at all unusual for that body to rent for temporary use Sunday School rooms connected with churches, mission chapels or churches and society halls, and mentioned that a building which was also used as an Orange Hall had on one occasion been engaged for a year or more for Public School purposes. These buildings are used by the school authorities during school hours only, and are available for

church, mission and society work on Sundays and for evening services. The average rental of these buildings, including fire and caretaking, is \$30 per month, and it is said that the expenditure is profitable, inasmuch as school work is conveniently prosecuted while new school buildings are being erected.

Mr. Wilkinson further testified that the children cared for in the Orphans' Home, Girls' Home and Boys' Home—all regarded as Protestant institutions and supported by private charity and aided by a Legislative grant—are returned as Public School pupils, and that the Legislative grant to the Public Schools of Toronto is increased by such return. The children, it may be added, are taught in rooms connected with the various institutions in which they reside, and the Board of School Trustees exercises no control over the various Homes, but supplies teachers for the instruction of the children cared for therein and furniture for the school room.

THE DULMAGE MATTER.

Mr. Aubrey White, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, was examined as to an alleged defalcation on the part of A. F. Dulmage, Forest Ranger, who collected dues in timber cut by Messrs. Cameron & Kennedy, in Rainy River District, between 28th May, 1886, and 3rd November, 1888, and failed to remit to the Crown Lands Department a portion of the amount received by him. This defalcation occurred chiefly during the long illness of Hon. T. B. Pardee, late Commissioner of Crown Lands, and at a period when the late Deputy Commissioner Johnson was in failing health, and unable to exercise that strict supervision of the details of the Department which distinguished his management of it for many years. In the territory in question, as Mr. A. White testifies, "things were in a chaotic condition in consequence of disputed title thereto. There was an uncertainty on the part of lumbermen as to whom dues ought to be paid, and the Department did not presume to give authority to any person to cut timber. All that was done was to provide for the cutting of cordwood, etc., and the Hon. Mr. Pardee instructed that if any person cutting cordwood tendered dues therefor, the money was to be collected and forwarded to the Department. In this manner A. F. Dulmage was empowered to make collections, and he received large sums from Messrs. Cameron & Kennedy, and forwarded a portion of them only to the Department. He had, previous to his employment by the Crown Lands Department, been in the service of large lumbering firms, and was generally regarded as a sober and reliable man. Hon. C. F. Fraser, who temporarily acted for Hon. T. B. Pardee, received information which induced him to believe that Dulmage was becoming addicted to the use of drink, and caused an inquiry to be made into his conduct in October, 1888. Before the appointment of Hon. A. S. Hardy as Commissioner in January, 1889, he took prompt steps to remove Dulmage, and substituted for him Mr. Margach, who made full investigation of his conduct and reported to the Department. As a result, the defalcation was discovered and steps were taken for the arrest of Dulmage. He succeeded in escaping to the United States, and his whereabouts there remains unknown. Constable Reddon, who was entrusted with the warrant for his apprehension, but whose carelessness resulted in his escape, has been dismissed.

The Committee investigated other items than those enumerated, but they do not call for special comment. A list of them is to be found in the minutes of Committee submitted herewith.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES CLARKE, Chairman.

Committee Room, Treasurer's Office, 3rd

April, 1890.

The proceedings in connection with the report are dealt with elsewhere.