

### Loan Companies.

The bill respecting loan companies now before the House, on motion of the Attorney-General, is a consolidation of the law respecting these institutions, including some clauses which have been uniformly made part of the charters hitherto granted, but have not been hitherto incorporated in the general statute. Among these is the power to receive money on deposit, and to loan money, not only on real estate and Provincial and Dominion securities, but upon the debentures of municipal and school corporations.

### The Educational Bills.

The bills relating to education introduced by Hon. Mr. Ross yesterday make some changes in the law which are worthy of note. The following are understood to be some of the points in which the High School Law will be amended:—

It is intended to establish a commercial department in all the collegiate institutes of the Province, and a specialist in commercial subjects will be required, having equal rank as specialists in modern languages, classics and sciences. It is felt that many who attend the High School do not intend to pursue a university course, and a commercial department in which provision will be made for instruction in stenography and bookkeeping in all its modern applications would be a great boon to many young men and women who are now preparing for positions in counting houses and banks. This change doubtless will meet with universal approval. Provision is made also for the abolition of the preparatory departments in High Schools. These departments were established years ago when the Public School system was in a very crude condition, but in view of the progress of Public School work in the last twenty years, and as it has been abolished in every High School in the Province except Toronto, its continuance is deemed unnecessary. It is also proposed to provide for the appointment of High School trustees during the month of December preceding the year in which they enter upon their duties. It has been found that in many cases High School trustees were appointed from among defeated aldermen and others whose municipal expectations were disappointed, and in order to leave the choice of the Council as free from all external influence as possible this change is made. Members of Municipal Councils are to be disqualified from serving either as High School trustees or as members of the Board of Education. It is proposed also to give the Public School Boards representation on the High School Boards under conditions similar to the representation of the Separate Schools. Of course this would not apply where boards of education exist. Authority is to be given trustees of High Schools to dispose absolutely of their right to High School property. This will relieve many boards of the circuitous method employed heretofore in disposing of real estate controlled by the board. Material changes will be made in the mode of paying the High School grant, except in so far as concerns the legislative grant. County Councils will be required to give an equivalent of the Government grant as at present, but where the average attendance from the county is in excess of the average attendance from the High School district, provision will be made for such an equitable distribution of the burdens of maintaining the High Schools as will materially relieve the High School district. Authority will also be given to County Councils to impose fees not exceeding \$10 per annum on county pupils. The intention is to shift the burden of maintaining the High Schools to a certain extent from the ratepayer to those availing themselves of the advantages. In the case of pupils attending the High School from the district in which the High School is situated, no change is to be made in the matter of fees. The entrance examination will be continued, but instead of a board of examiners for each High School, it is intended to appoint a board of examiners for each county, composed of inspectors and the principals of the High Schools of the county. A greater degree of uniformity in regard to the High School entrance examination will be secured in this way without additional expense. An appeal will be allowed from the examiners to the Education Department, and all complaints with regard to the mode of conducting the examination will be open to adjudication, as heretofore, by the chairmen of the Public, High and Separate Schools of the district in which the examination is held. The cost of the examination is to be borne by the County Council and the High School district, but power is to be given to the County Council to impose a fee not exceeding \$1 for the examination of each pupil. Trustees of High Schools are to have a similar power. A change is made in the High School terms. The first High School term will begin on the last Monday of August instead of at the beginning of the year; the second term will begin with 3rd January, instead of the 7th, and holidays extending over one week will be allowed at Easter. The schools will close for summer on 30th June. The practical effect of this will be to increase the holidays in High Schools not more than a couple of days, but the long term from 1st January to 1st July is to be relieved by holidays as already stated. No doubt teachers and pupils will welcome this as a great relief.

Though several amendments are made in the Public School law, in the greater number of cases they merely affect details of administration which the experience of the last five years has demonstrated to be necessary. A leaving examination is provided for. The intention is to furnish Public School pupils additional inducements to continue their course of study after having passed the entrance examination. The leaving examination is intended to deal mainly with a wider course in English literature, penmanship, commercial transactions and commercial arithmetic, with the design of

leading up to a more advanced course in commercial subjects prescribed for High Schools. This will meet the interests of many pupils in rural districts who cannot without much inconvenience and expense avail themselves of the High School course. The holidays in schools in cities, towns and incorporated villages are made identical with the holidays in High Schools. No change is made in the holidays in rural schools. Provision is also made for contributing to the cost of the inspection of Public Schools in cities and towns separated from the county. Under the act of 1871, by which the present method of inspection was introduced, the Government recognised its liability only for the inspection of rural schools. The correction of this anomalous condition of things has been frequently urged upon the Government. In the case of cities with over 300 teachers, it is intended to provide additional inspection, and city inspectors are placed under the same obligations regarding the discharge of their duties as county inspectors. Provision is also made for paying County Councils for investigations forced upon them by the ordinary difficulties of administering the School Act in their respective districts, and also for attending meetings of the Board of Examiners. The most difficult question with which the Department of Education has to deal is the inequality of the school sections in rural districts. Had the country been prepared to accept township boards of trustees this inequality would not be felt. But the dissolution of the only township boards in the organised districts (Enniskillen and Tuckersmith) indicates plainly that a solution of the difficulty cannot be found in that way. It is now proposed to make the option that was allowed Municipal Councils by the act of 1835 of giving \$100 to each school section within the township obligatory. In the same connection it is also proposed to relieve County Councils from giving for the maintenance of rural schools an equivalent of the Government grant. This provision was intended to equalise the disproportion existing between the various school sections, but as the township grant was levied upon the township itself and not upon the whole county, as a remedy it was almost useless. By giving each school a sum certain of \$100 a financial basis is provided for the ordinary expenses. Any sum required in addition to this and the Government grant will be levied as at present on the school section. Some minor changes are made in the mode of issuing school debentures. Other amendments made by this bill will be referred to as the measure progresses in the House.

### Imprisonment For Bribery.

Mr. Whitney intends to reintroduce his bill of last session increasing the penalties for bribery at elections. In addition to the punishment of a \$200 fine he proposes to add a penalty of not more than three months in goal, at the discretion of the judge. He also wants to make it obligatory on the county Crown attorney to attend all election trials for the purpose of instituting proceedings for bribery.

### A Second Junior Judge For York.

The Attorney-General introduced a bill yesterday to provide for the appointment of a second junior judge for the County of York, and it was read a first time. The bill provides that the second junior judge shall have the same qualifications as other judges of County Courts and the same jurisdiction and powers, duties and obligations as are conferred and imposed upon junior County judges. It is provided that the local courts in York may sit simultaneously, and that there shall be held in each of the courts of the two divisions of Toronto at least weekly sittings, except during the month of August, for the trial of causes, and at least every two months for the trial of cases where juries have been demanded.

### Committees.

The standing committees have elected their chairmen as follows:—Railways, Hon. C. F. Fraser; Private Bills, Hon. J. M. Gibson; Privileges and Elections, Hon. Richard Harcourt; Standing Orders, Mr. O'Connor; Public Accounts, Hon. Chas. Clarke (Wellington); Printing, Mr. Balfour; Municipal, Hon. A. S. Hardy.

### Notices of Motion.

Mr. Whitney—Monday next—Bill to amend the Ditches and Watercourses Act.

Bill to amend the Election Act.

Attorney-General—Bill respecting the duties and liability of trustees.

Mr. Tait—Monday—Bill respecting undertaking, embalming and organic chemistry.

Bill respecting the examination of engineers and the inspection of stationary boilers.

### Notes.

Mr. Charlton received a telegram this afternoon from Lynedoch, calling him home on account of the serious illness of his father, Adam Charlton, whose 85 years make his recovery doubtful.

The funeral of the late Edward Dowling, father of Dr. Dowling, the popular representative of South Renfrew, took place to-day at his residence in Ramsay Township. His death occurred on Tuesday. He was 87 years of age and one of the staunchest Liberals in Lanark. Dr. Dowling has not been in the House this week, but is expected to be in his place on Monday.

Mr. Tait has given notice of a bill which he will introduce to provide for the teaching of embalming and organic chemistry. The object is to provide that no one shall practise embalming without first passing an examination, and the result will probably be to establish a school of embalming. The movement has the endorsement of the Undertakers' Association, and is in accord with a recommendation of the Provincial Board of Health to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

The press gallery was organised this afternoon. Mr. Horace Wallis of The Mail was elected president and Mr. A. C. Campbell secretary. The care of the gallery is this year again in the charge of Mr. James Welch.

Globe, Mar 13<sup>th</sup>

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