

THE LEGISLATURE.

A Day's Discussion of the School Law.

HON. MR. ROSS' BILLS.

Proposed Amendments Meet With Approval.

An Influx of Deputations—Last Day for Introduction of Private Bills—Petitions and Notes.

TORONTO, April 7.

This was a day of discussion of the school law. Hon. Mr. Ross' bills for the consolidation and amendment of the Public and High School legislation occupied the attention of the House during the afternoon and evening. The House was a happy family during the discussion. The bills met the general approval of the House. The suggestions of minor changes came from both sides of the House, and except for a few notes of party politics in the evening there was the nicest harmony in the House.

Before the orders of the day were called Dr. Willoughby rose to a question of privilege. In the report in The Empire of the proceedings of Friday's session he was reported as having referred to the principal of the Guelph Agricultural College in certain observations he had made. It was the part taken in the recent elections by the Minister of Agriculture which he had censured and not the principal of the college as reported.

Mr. Mack's bill for the consolidation of the debt of the Town of Cornwall was given its second reading.

Mr. Meredith asked the Government if, inasmuch as the report of the Committee on Standing Orders with regard to Mr. Hiscott's St. Catharines railway bill had not been adopted by the House, was it the purpose of the Government to oppose the bill?

Hon. Mr. Fraser replied that the Government intended to oppose the bill, not only because of insufficient notice of it but because it dealt with matters it had no business to deal with.

Mr. Meredith thought the proposed legislation ought to have gone to the Private Bills Committee and not been cut off in so summary a manner.

Educational Legislation.

There was some sign of objection on the part of Mr. Meredith to taking up the financial resolutions of the school bills which, under the rules, had to be passed in committee of the whole and embodied in the bills, the reason for objection being that proper notice had not been given. Subsequently Mr. Meredith allowed the bills to go on the understanding that it was by common consent. The resolutions provided, (1) Authorising the Government to pay \$5 per school to each county inspector and the County Council shall pay quarterly at the rate of not less than an equal amount per school and in addition thereto reasonable travelling expenses, the amount to be determined by the County Council. (2) That the Government may pay \$5 for every teacher occupying a separate room with a separate register, to the school board of any city or town separated from the county, towards the payment of the Public School inspector. Respecting the latter resolution, Mr. Ross said that since 1871 cities and towns separate from the county received from the House no aid for inspection of the Public Schools, the practice being to allow the whole cost of inspection to rest upon the municipalities. But as counties received \$5 per teacher toward inspection it was believed the others should receive aid to a similar extent.

The resolutions were passed and referred to committee of the whole on the Public School bill.