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of the desirability of having one member who will see after the school premises and act in case of any matter which the teacher or a ratepayer desires to call to the attention of the trustees. Provision is made for insuring the Public Schools, and the permission given to trustees to furnish the school with proper apparatus is now made obligatory. Stability is given to the boundaries of school sections now liable to be disturbed, by providing that changes shall not be made within five years after they are made. The bill provides that school boards in cities, towns and incorporated villages shall provide free text books. In this connection the Minister stated that the cost in Massachusetts of free text books was 64 cents per pupil per annum. In the Model Schools of Ontario where the system was in use the cost was about 97 cents, but with the introduction of some authorised books not yet used it would probably be reduced to 75 cents. The cost in Massachusetts was less than the pupils could supply themselves for. The trustees were able to buy books at wholesale, the books were handed down from child to child, and moreover, strange as it may seem, more care was taken of the books, because teachers and scholars felt a certain responsibility in the care of them. The maintenance of Public Schools is improved by providing that each township shall provide at least \$100 for each school in the township, which, with an average grant from the Government of \$150, would form a satisfactory basis for the Public School. This would equalise the school assessment, which now showed great variation in different localities, there being no just reason why one man should pay three or four times as much as his neighbor in similar circumstances towards the schools. The law fixing the minimum age of teachers is changed so that instead of the age of seventeen, young women must be eighteen before they enter the profession—the same age is fixed for young men. It is deemed advisable to have advantage of the additional year of maturity on the part of the female teachers. Third-class certificates will now be good for five years, instead of three, but will be confined to the county in which they are issued. The differences in local examination and the tendency of examiners to be indulgent in granting certificates made this change necessary. If the time were not limited third-class teachers would be apt to remain such, but knowing that his certificate would expire, the tendency on the part of the holder was to keep up his studies and try for a higher grade. Another important feature of the bill is that it provides a leaving examination for the Public Schools, the object being to retain in the schools those who from poverty or other reasons could not attend the High Schools, and who, but for some such means as this, would give up their studies. Regulations will have to be provided by the department, and these will contain the working details of the scheme. There is no change regarding county inspectors, but it is felt to be an injustice in the case of cities and towns separated from the county that the present system of complete local control should continue. The inspectors in cities are a part of the general machinery of education. The Education Department contributes toward the expense of inspection, and it should therefore exercise some control. He closed by moving the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) said he was strongly in favor of the amendments proposed. With regard to poor schools, he would like that when a school required Government assistance their constituency be made larger and the collection of the money for their maintenance spread over a wider area. He favored free school books, and would extend the operation of the law to the rural districts. There were clauses in the bill upon which, in committee, he would like to make suggestions, but it was a satisfactory bill, tending in the right direction in the main. With regard to the extension of the term of third-class certificates from three to five

years he would like the extension after that time to be a permanency. He supported the raising of the minimum age of male teachers to eighteen years, but thought young women of the same age would be so much more mature that relatively the sexes would not be on even terms as to age. He hoped the bill would pass the House.

Mr. Waters was favorably impressed by many of the amendments of the bill, but with one he was not. He hoped that the limit put upon third-class certificates by section 141 so that they were only good in the county in which issued, would be amended so as to make them Provincial.

Mr. Miscampbell believed it was good policy to have as few third-class teachers as possible, and the Minister's move in making the certificates good only for one county was in the direction of lessening the number. But he thought the increase of the time of the certificates being calculated to increase the number was objectionable. He was glad there were to be leaving examinations.

Mr. Gibson (Huron) thought the increase of the time of third-class certificates was a move in the right direction. It was plainly good that the experience gained in three years should be available for two years more.

Mr. Meredith—Why not make it ten years?

Mr. Gibson—According to the law a teacher could by taking the examination at the end of his or her term have the certificate renewed as often as the examination was passed. He believed the entrance examination to High Schools was too low and should be made of a higher standard. He would have liked to see in the bill some provision for giving to Public Schools that send students to take third and second class certificates the same Government benefit that was given to High Schools.

Dr. Preston was of the opinion that a holder of a third-class certificate should be obliged after a certain time to pass a second certificate if the holder wished to continue teaching.

It being 6 o'clock the House rose.

The Evening Session.

The evening session was opened by brief speeches by Mr. Reid and Dr. Meacham. They were pleased with the general nature of the bill, but wanted some system of distributing the Government grants so that schools in poorer districts might receive larger grants than by the present system.

Mr. Clancy thought it might be a hardship to confine third-class teachers to one county. He made a moderately-worded speech, in which, while suggesting some minor amendments, he approved the bill.

Mr. Wood (Brant) made a lucid speech with regard to the system of grants. He thought the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Clancy) was mistaken in his calculation as to how weak sections would be affected by the provisions of section 107. He took three sections with an assessment of \$30,000, \$60,000 and \$90,000; each of them would receive \$100 from the municipal treasury. Of the \$300 necessary to pay the total grants each would as a section contribute \$43, \$86 and \$172 respectively. Therefore, the net gain to the small section would be \$56, to the average section \$14 and the net loss to the large section would be \$72. Both sides of the House, he said, had recognised the principle and it would no doubt be approved by the Province inasmuch as it was calculated to equalise the assessment for school purposes.

Mr. Stratton made a thoughtful review of the education legislation and dealt with the subject in the broad spirit of a liberal educationist. He referred in a congratulatory way to the fact that after two elections had been fought about his department, yet so little fault was found with the bill the Minister of Education now brought down. He was glad so much was being done in the school system to give children a commercial education. He was pleased that a clause in the bill stopped dual representation on Municipal Councils and Boards of Education. He had

some sessions ago brought in a bill to effect this reform. He would have liked to see a provision that High School trustees be elected by the people. He hoped such a clause might yet be put into the bill. He supported the additional grant which it was proposed to give pioneer schools.

Mr. Meredith, resenting the references of the member for West Peterboro' to what the Opposition leader called party politics, said he wished as a protest to call attention to the fact that many of the amendments suggested by the bill were due to the frequent representations made from his side of the House. He did not want to lessen the credit due to the Minister, but he did not like that an hon. gentleman should attempt to make political capital after the course that had been taken by his side of the House. Mr. Meredith said he had suspicions of the motive behind the amendment with regard to Public School inspectors in cities. He said he was of the opinion that the clause was aimed at a particular inspector who had given some trouble during the last election, who lived not far from the Minister's buildings, and upon whom, he believed, the Minister would like to get a short chain.

Mr. Ross—The bill does not affect the appointment of inspectors.

Mr. Meredith replied that it provided for removal for incompetence. And as the "King of the Education Department," the Opposition leader continued with a smiling countenance, was to be the judge of an inspector's competency, the short chain which the Minister seemed to want was there. He hoped this clause would be dropped.

Mr. McKenzie made a brief speech in which he expressed his satisfaction with the bill. He said he would like to see the third-class certificates good all over the Province inasmuch as the school system was Provincial.

Mr. Dack is always listened to with attention and his remarks to-night with interest. He said the proposed dissolution of High School and Public School boards would not find favor in his constituency where the question had received considerable attention. Therefore he objected to sub-section 2 of section 8 of the school bill which provides for the dissolution. He noticed that entrance examinations are to be held by school inspectors and High School teachers. He did not see why the High School teachers should have a monopoly of these examinations. There were Public School teachers quite capable of acting and they ought to be given a chance.

Mr. Sol. White criticised the bill in a general way, and citing Mr. Stratton's remarks as a provocation gave a political tinge to his remarks.

Mr. Ross, in his reply, went over the principal objections raised, but before he did so he acknowledged the kindly tone shown by the members in what had been said. He amplified what he had said in introducing the bill concerning those points in dispute, meeting every objection fairly and laying before the House with frankness the reasons which had led him to the conclusions shown in the draft of the bill. He gave an interesting resume of the question of third-class certificates, giving what must have seemed overwhelming reasons for the course he proposed. He pointed out that by a system of transfer of certificates from one county to another on authority of the inspector, all danger of an overplus of teachers in one county and a scarcity in another would be avoided. This would be only reintroducing the system which accompanied the confining of third-class certificates to the county in former times. He dwelt at length also upon the advantage of having a teacher as a general thing serve his apprenticeship under the friendly advice and guidance of the inspector who had the best opportunity of becoming acquainted with him during the teacher's school days. As to the permit question he said that it was absolutely necessary to grant a permit. When he came into office there were between 800 and 900 permits out. He had got them down to about 120, and expected to reduce them further, but they could not be done away with altogether. Only on the petition of the trustees, the report of the inspector and advertisement that the board was not able to secure a qualified person with a certificate did a permit issue. In reference to the inspectors and the control of them by the department he said he had simply pursued the policy, "hew to the line." The principle was a clear one, and the public advantage of following it was also apparent. He had never interfered with the political leanings of any inspector. One