

122
A New Feature in Industrial Schools.

Upon the House resuming at 3 o'clock the members took up consideration of the bill respecting the sale of real estate, introduced by the Attorney-General. After a few minor amendments the bill was reported to the House, which next went into committee on Hon. Mr. Ross' Industrial Schools Bill. The Minister of Education had an amendment to the measure which involves a change of considerable importance to the management of such institutions. Its effect was that the Boards of Management of an Industrial School might place any boy in the school in a suitable home on condition that the cost to the municipality from which the boy came was no greater than his cost at the school. Another condition was that the persons with whom the boy was placed should have the same control over him as the authorities of the institution. The bill was reported with amendment to the House. The Attorney-General's bill to regulate the charters to loans companies was passed through committee, and another bill standing in Mr. Ross' name, improving the law relating to conveyances to trustees, went through with one or two amendments submitted by the Minister.

The Mining Bill.

When the House again went into committee on the bill to amend the General Mining Act, Mr. Meredith and Mr. Connec added a few words to the criticism they had already passed on the measure. The question of royalty incidentally cropped up and Mr. Connec gave expression to the hope that instead of being allowed to stand for four years after the issue of a patent, it would be abolished altogether. The Hon. Mr. Hardy had two new amendments of considerable importance to move. One was an amendment to the additional clause introduced on the previous evening. That clause as it stood read thus:—"Notwithstanding anything herein contained, grants may hereafter be made of mining lands at the price and upon the conditions heretofore applicable for which bona fide application has been made to the Department of Crown Lands in writing prior to the 24th day of April, 1891.

(a) Where the purchase money has heretofore been paid into the department therefor.

(b) Where a deposit has heretofore been made in the department on account and it is satisfactorily shown that considerable expense has been heretofore incurred in surveying the lands applied for or in developing the mines thereon or in and about the actual bona fide discovery of valuable minerals thereon, provided the application is renewed and the balance of the purchase money paid within three months from the passing hereof.

(c) Instead of grants, leases may be made of such land, without reservation of and free from royalty.

Hon. Mr. Hardy proposed to substitute the following for sub-section C:—

"Where an applicant is an actual explorer or prospector and gives satisfactory proof of actual discovery of valuable minerals by himself on any lot not exceeding 160 acres and upon which he has erected for the purpose of evidencing and holding possession or otherwise a house, hut or shanty, in which he has resided during the year 1889, or 1890 for a period of at least six months, or where it is made to appear that he has incurred considerable expense in and about the actual and bona fide discovery of valuable minerals thereon, and where application shall be made and the purchase money paid within three months from the passing hereof." The amendment was agreed to.

The other amendment was a new sub-section to clause 5 and it read thus:—

"There shall be expended in stripping or in opening up mines or in sinking shafts or in other actual mining operations the same sum upon lands leased under the provisions of this act as it is provided shall be expended in the case of sales or grants by section 2 hereof and within the same time, and in default of such expenditure the lease shall be forfeited and become absolutely void, and the said lands, mines and minerals shall, upon the report of the director of mines that such expenditure has not been made, confirmed by an order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, revert to and become the property of and be vested in her Majesty, her successors and assigns, and shall cease to be the property of any other person or persons whatsoever." The new section was agreed to and the bill was reported with amendments to the House. The third reading was fixed for the following day.

Liabilities of Trustees.

There was some little discussion on the question of investment of trust funds when the House went into committee to consider the bill introduced by the Attorney-General touching the duties, powers and liabilities of trustees. The measure, it was explained, was a substantial improvement on the existing act. Additional powers were conferred on trusts, and at the same time due precautions were taken for the safety of investments. The bill was reported with amendments.

The Land Improvement Fund.

The bill introduced by Mr. Harcourt relating to the land improvement fund provoked some discussion on a pretty well worn subject. The objects of the measure are set forth in the preamble and the first two clauses as follows:—

"Whereas the Parliament of the late Province of Canada set apart one million acres of the public lands of Upper Canada for the Common Schools of Canada, and in order to encourage settlers and purchasers provision was made by statute and orders in Council for reserving out of the proceeds a sum not exceeding one-fourth of such proceeds, and also a sum not exceeding one-fifth of the proceeds of unappropriated Crown lands as a fund for public improvement within the counties in which the said Common School and Crown lands sold should be situate, which said fund was called the land improvement fund; and whereas considerable portions of the said Crown lands were sold before the 6th March, 1861, when the said orders in Council were rescinded, and divers sums were received in respect thereof between that day and the 1st July, 1867, one-fifth of which

sums (less charges for management and collection) amounted to \$101,771 68 and became applicable to the said improvement fund; and whereas the Province of Quebec disputes any liability to the improvement fund in respect of the reservations from the proceeds of Crown lands, and it has been found impracticable hitherto to obtain any authoritative decision as to the said dispute; and in view of the delay which has taken place and the further delay which may take place in procuring a settlement of the said dispute, it appears to be just and expedient for this Province (without prejudice to any question in dispute) to pay to and distribute among the municipalities concerned the share of the said sum which would be chargeable against this Province in case of the claim of the municipalities to the said sum against the late Province of Canada being made good;

"Therefore her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

"(1) There shall be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund of this Province to the townships and other municipalities entitled thereto the sum of \$53,704 92, being the proportion which may be chargeable to the Province of Ontario in respect of the sum of \$101,771 68 claimed to be payable to the Upper Canada improvement fund on sales of Crown lands made by the late Province of Canada between the 14th day of June, 1853, and 6th day of March, 1861, and money received thereon by the Province of Canada between the 6th day of March, 1861, and the 1st day of July, 1857.

"(2) The said moneys shall be paid under the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to the treasurers of the various townships and municipalities appearing to be entitled thereto under the statutes and orders in Council of the said Province of Canada in that behalf; and each township or other municipality shall be paid that portion of the said amount which was obtained from the lands sold as aforesaid, within the municipality, and such portion shall be ascertained and determined by authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council."

The consideration of the bill was taken up in committee, but before the clauses were agreed to Mr. Meredith passed under review once more the provisions of the statutes bearing upon the point and gave his interpretation of the orders in Council. There were moot points raised as to whether the Grammar School lands were in the same position as ordinary school lands, and whether the interests of the people of Croton were or were not receiving the attention they deserved. Mr. Meredith appealed for delay in dealing with the matter until further inquiry had been made. The remarks of the leader of the Opposition elicited vigorous replies from Hon. Mr. Harcourt and from the Attorney-General, who went exhaustively into the whole question—statutes, orders in Council, legal opinions—and completely justified the course the Government asked the House to adopt. The points raised were rather those requiring forensic skill than eloquence in debate, for in truth by the ordinary mind they would not be readily understood. It was apparent from the speeches of both Ministers that the subject had been fully investigated and thoroughly mastered.

The bill was passed in committee of the whole, and the House rose for a well-earned recess.

In the evening there was a good attendance of members, and the public also was largely represented. Both the Speaker's and the ladies' galleries were crowded, and in the big strangers' gallery overhead there was a large contingent. The proceedings in the House were lively in the early part of the evening. The legislators seemed to be in buoyant spirits, and while the prevailing sentiment was one of business, there seemed to be a very general determination to get out of the situation as much fun as possible. Mayor Clarke was on hand to move the second reading of the bill respecting the City of Toronto. The motion was carried. Mr. Marter's bill respecting the Town of Bracebridge was passed in committee. The Attorney-General's bill respecting disputes under the drainage laws was further amended in committee of the whole, and the bill respecting inter-provincial arbitration accounts was passed through its final stages. The bill to detach one of the judges from the Chancery Division was passed in committee.

Government orders were dropped at this point and the House went on to deal with general bills in the hands of private members. The following were passed in committee with but little discussion.

Title amendment the act respecting master and servant—Mr. Dack.

To amend the Ontario Controverted Elections Act.—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Street, Railway Act—Mr. Robillard.

The Undertakers' Bill.

The clerk read out the next order:—"Respecting undertaking, embalming and organic chemistry," and at once every man in the chamber seemed to grow interested. It was manifest that there was to be a strong fight over the bill among those who favored or opposed it, while many seemed careless of everything except to "guy" the proceedings. The key-note was struck in a speech by Mr. Bishop of Huron. Mr. Bishop's speech is remarkable rather for strength than for polish, and he "stated" the bill in good style.