

THE LEGISLATURE.

A Day Mainly Devoted to School Questions.

FRENCH IN THE SCHOOLS.

Separate Schools and Public Control of Them.

Many Divisions Recorded—Strong Speeches by Leading Members—The Prospects of Business.

TORONTO, April 30.

For the first time during the present session the question of Separate Schools and the teaching of French in the Public Schools were the subject of debate. The greater part of the sitting was devoted to these questions, but the arguments raised by the Opposition against both were simply reiteration of the campaign speeches and were effectively combatted by the Ministers. Satisfactory progress was made with the measures before the House, and it is confidently anticipated that the members will conclude their labors this week.

The morning sitting was chiefly occupied with the discussion of points in connection with Hon. Mr. Gibson's bill respecting the liability of directors, Hon. Mr. Ross' bill to amend and consolidate Public School laws, and the bill introduced by the Attorney-General for the settlement of questions between the Governments of Canada and Ontario respecting Indian lands. These measures were set down for the third reading, but were referred back to committee.

Mr. Meredith had an objection to urge against the bill respecting the liability of directors. His point was that directors of companies should not be held liable in a pecuniary sense for false prospectuses issued and for information of a misleading kind that might be submitted to the public.

The Attorney-General twitted the member for London upon his zeal for the interests of the directors as against those of the people generally who invested their money in these institutions and who were liable to be deceived by these prospectuses. The bill was reported with amendments after a short debate. Mr. S. White thought the bill for the settlement of questions between the Governments of Canada and Ontario respecting Indian lands went too far inasmuch as the Indian reserves were all under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, and beyond certain limits the Provincial authorities had no power. The Attorney-General convinced the House that so far as Ontario was concerned the Legislature had a perfect right to insist upon the voice of the province being heard in regard to the lands within its jurisdiction. Moreover, there could be no possible objection to the measure, inasmuch as it only authorized an agreement between the Provincial and Dominion Government. The third reading of the bill was carried.

Third Readings.

Respecting the land improvement fund—Mr. Harcourt.

Respecting certain duties, powers and liabilities of trustees—The Attorney-General.

To amend the act respecting master and servant—Mr. Daek.

To amend the Public Parks Act—Mr. Awrey.

Respecting the Town of Bracebridge—Mr. Marter.

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

To reduce the expense of appeals to the Court of Appeal—Mr. Awrey.

To amend the Street Railway Act—Mr. Robillard.

To amend the Ontario Medical Act—Mr. McKay (Oxford).

To encourage the breeding of trotting horses—Mr. White.

To amend the Pharmacy Act—Mr. Davis.

To amend the Debenture Registration Act—Mr. Tait.

To amend the Judicature Act—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Agriculture and Arts Act—Mr. Garrow.

To amend the act respecting companies for steam and heating, or for supplying electricity for light, heat or power—Mr. Biggar.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Hardy, leave was granted to introduce a bill to amend the Municipal Act. It will be known as the Municipal Amendment Act of 1891. An Assessment Amendment Act for 1891 was also introduced. Both bills were read the first and second times.

The University.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ross it was resolved that the House doth ratify an order in Council approved by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor the 29th day of April, such order being to the following effect:—Upon consideration of the following report of the hon. Minister of Education, dated 28th April, inst., the Committee of Council advise that the following expenditures in connection with the University of Toronto and University College be provided for without delay, namely: (1) For balance due on Biological Department, thirty-two thousand one hundred and sixty-seven dollars (\$32,167). (2) For cost of biographical museum, sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000). (3) For new chemical laboratory and buildings, sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000). (4) For gymnasium and temporary convocation room, twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The committee further advise that, subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly, the trustees of the said university be authorized to expend the said sums for the purposes mentioned, and that such expenditure be a charge upon the permanent funds of the said university, as provided for by section 25, of chapter 251, of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, provided always that the plans for the improvements aforesaid be subject to the approval of your Honor.

A Saturday Sitting.

On the motion of the Attorney-General it was resolved that when the House adjourns to-morrow it do stand adjourned until Saturday, the second day of May, at 11 o'clock, Government orders to have precedence. Mr. Mowat humorously observed that if the business concluded the Saturday sitting would not be necessary. The House then adjourned for lunch.

The City of London.

The business was resumed in the afternoon. The House divided after some discussion on a resolution of Mr. Meredith to incorporate in the bill respecting the City of London a provision allowing the issue of debentures for 40 years, a longer term than that allowed under the general law. Mr. Meredith's main argument in support of the provision was that a similar authority had been given to the City of Toronto. Mr. Balfour presented a strong case when he showed that other municipalities had been refused similar power by the Private Bills Committee, and contended that it would be virtually a breach of faith with them now to give such a privilege to London. Mr. Fraser, speaking on behalf of the Government, said it was deemed unwise to make another precedent in this direction, particularly in view of the fact that consideration on the part of the Government might result in the framing of a general clause, with proper safeguards and proper machinery, giving this privilege generally. The vote was a party vote, and resulted, of course, in the defeat of the amendment. The bill was then read the third time. The following is the division list:—

YEAS.—Barr, Bush, Campbell (Algoma), Campbell (Durham), Clancy, Clark, E. F. (Toronto), Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Dunlop, Fell, Glendinning, Godwin, Hammell, Hiscott, Hudson, Kerns, McCleary, McColl, McLenaghan, Magwood, Marter, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalfe, Miscampbell, Monk, Preston, Reid, Rorke, Smith (Frontenac), Waters, White Whitney, Willoughby, Wood (Hastings)—34.

NAYS.—Allan, Awrey, Balfour, Baxter, Biggar, Bishop, Blezard, Caldwell, Carpenter, Charlton, Chisholm, Clarke (Wellington), Cloland, Connee, Daek, Davis, Dowling, Dryden, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Garrow, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Guthrie, Harcourt, Hardy, Lockhart, Loughrin, McKay (Oxford), McKay (Victoria), McKechnie, McKenzie, H., McMahon, Mackenzie, C., Moore, Mowat, O'Connor, Paton, Porter, Rayside, Robillard, Ross, Sharpe, Smith (York), Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Tait, Wood (Brant)—51.

Mr. Mack voted with the majority, but as he was absent at the moment the resolution was read his vote was not counted.

Liability of Directors.

On Mr. Gibson's (Hamilton) bill respecting the liabilities of directors, Mr. Meredith moved two amendments, neither of which was adopted. One of these amendments was to confine the operation of the bill to representations respecting the sale of bonds, debentures and similar securities, and to exclude those relating to insurance contracts. The other excepted from the penalties of the act directors whose statements were made in good faith. These amendments were lost on division.

French Schools Once More.

The Opposition had kept quiet about the French schools up to this time, but to-day was made a field day on this and cognate questions. The debates sounded like an echo of the debates prior to the election. There are these clauses in the Public Schools Act as it came up for consideration on third reading:—

Section 145, sub-section 2—Where deemed necessary from the general use of the French or German language, the County Council may appoint additional examiners, not exceeding two, for the purpose of conducting the examination of candidates for a teacher's certificate in either of the languages aforesaid. R. S. O., c. 225, s. 169.

Section 150, sub-section 2—(3) In counties containing any municipality wherein the French or German language is the common or prevailing language, an inspector may have charge of any number of schools not less than 40.

Mr. Miscampbell did not like these clauses,