

Mr. Meredith—This session?

Hon. Mr. Ross—No, not this session. I am considering one or two amendments, but they are of a minor character, and will not be introduced this session. Mr. Ross, continuing, said that the two systems of schools did not overlap each other, as Dr. Ryerson had suggested. The pupil began in the High School just where he left off in the Public School. No ground was gone over again. Therefore that argument did not apply. As to the question of economy, there might be a very little saving, as suggested, by officials of one board, as now existing, doing the work of the united board; but the saving would be a small one. The Education Department endeavored not to make amendments to the school act oftener than once in five years. He had proposed amendments to the act in 1891, and he looked forward to proposing other amendments to the act in the session of 1896. (Government applause.)

Mr. Meredith said Mr. Ross must have changed his opinion in regard to the union of the boards. It was not long since he had tried to pass a measure through the House which would have had the effect of destroying even the unions that existed. He thought it would be well during the present session to repeal that section of the act which prevented union.

Hon. Mr. Ross—There has not been a simple petition for such an amendment—nothing of any kind in that direction, except the bill of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Meredith—What about the change in the hon. gentleman's views?

Hon. Mr. Ross—It is a sign of good government that we progress. We are learning. The bill of the hon. gentleman would, however, be opposed by the High School Board.

Mr. A. F. Wood was strongly in favor of a union generally between the two classes of boards. The trustees of the Common School Board were elected directly by the people. Those of the High School Board were appointed by various corporations. The Public School Trustees were therefore in much closer touch with the people. He closed by advising Mr. Ross not to make too many promises as to what he would do next session. On the one hand, he might not have the chance of being in the House, and on the other hand, he might see fit to accept some other office in the public service between now and then.

Dr. Ryerson said the bill was introduced at the instigation of the City Council of Toronto, and as the result of a resolution passed favoring such a union as proposed. The Public School Board had also, almost unanimously, approved the proposal, and he felt sure the High School Board would have done the same had the matter been fairly presented to them. Looking to the future, Dr. Ryerson said he did not feel the same confidence as the Minister of Education did that he would be able to introduce any amendments to the Public School act next session or the session after. He had recently met some of the hon. gentleman's constituents, former friends of the Minister, and from the tone of their remarks he did not feel at all sure that he would have the opportunity of doing as he suggested. Dr. Ryerson's bill was then dropped.

OTHER BILLS READ.

Mr. Monk then moved the second reading of the bill to amend the assessment act, by giving municipalities the power to make triennial instead of annual assessments. It was read a second time, without debate, and referred to the Municipal Committee, as was a second bill by the same hon. gentleman to facilitate the registry of mortgages and to reduce the expense thereof.

The House adjourned at 5 o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The Attorney-General—Bill respecting the duties of Coroners, also bill to make further provision respecting the solemnization of marriages, and to extend the power of the High Court in respect of granting maintenance to infants.

Mr. Meredith—Return showing what reductions have been made in the past ten years in the amounts payable by any municipality to the Province in respect of drainage works or advances made for such works, giving each municipality separately, with the amount of the original indebtedness, and the amount of the reduction made with respect to it, and the authority for such reduction, and showing also whether any of such municipalities, and if so, which, are in arrears in respect of the payments to have been made on the reduced indebtedness and the amounts in arrear.

Mr. Dack—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Ryerson—Bill entitled an act for the reclamation of inebriates.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS.

The second annual report of the Ontario Game and Fish Commissioners, which was laid on the table by Hon. Mr. Gibson to-day, contained much valuable information concerning the Province's stock of fish and game. Undoubted good, the report states, has been done by the establishment of the commission, and the efforts by it put forth. The wanton slaughter—described by the commissioners as sickening—which formerly went on, in season and out of season, has been forcibly met and checked, the laws and regulations meeting the support of all right-thinking people. Of course, absolute prevention has not yet been achieved. The number of commissioners remains unchanged, and consists of Dr. G. A. McCallum, Dunnville, Chairman; T. H. Willmott, Beaumaris, Muskoka; W. G. Parish, Athens; W. B. Wells, Chatham; and H. P. Dwight, Toronto. The commissioners recommend that a number of copies of the game act be printed in plain form for distribution, this being rendered doubly necessary by the fact that the large posters issued in 1892 are now outdated by the recent amendments made. The work of the wardens is described as intelligent and zealous. The area which they have to cover is, however, too large. The Province has been mapped out in four divisions, and a warden appointed over

each, to bring them closer to the deputies; but at least two more wardens are needed. The nominal salary of \$10 a month which was paid to the wardens has been increased to \$400 a year, except in the case of one, whose district is smaller, and who gets \$300 a year. The system of appointing and paying deputy-wardens has not proved altogether satisfactory. There are 413 on the roll, and while many are active and intelligent, the greater part of them are never heard from, and complaints are most numerous from the districts in which the silent deputies reside. The deputies are not paid by salary, and receive no remuneration beyond half the fines accruing from cases in which they are the informants. They are thus extremely chary of laying information, unless absolutely certain of securing conviction, and many offenders, who, if brought to trial, would be punished, get off. The commissioners recommend that the list be revised, and the wardens be allowed to select one or two good men in each county, who would report all cases coming under their notice to the wardens. The warden could decide upon the question as to prosecution, and the deputy would be relieved from the responsibility of costs. A piece of sharp practice also tends to discourage the deputies. The offenders often wait till summoned, and then, accompanied by an accomplice, go to a friendly Magistrate, other than the one who issued the original summons, the accomplice informs against the offender, gets half the fine, and hands it back; while the deputy is saddled with the costs. The game, the report states, has increased in the Province in the past two years. Partridge have increased, while the sportsmen have shot carefully so as to give the quail a chance of getting over the effects upon their numbers of the severe winter two years ago. The slaughter of deer has been heavy, and the commissioners state that dogs should not be allowed for longer than the first ten days of the season. Measures will be taken to prevent the slaughter of insectivorous birds. The unsettled character of the dispute in the matter of the fisheries between the Ontario and Dominion Governments has prevented steps being taken to protect the fish, which are being recklessly slaughtered. Measures were taken to restock several streams with trout, bass, pickerei and carp. A steam yacht is absolutely necessary to stop the spring shooting and incessant poaching in Canadian waters near the American frontier. Few amendments to the act are recommended. It is suggested, however, that sec. 4, sub-sec. 5, which prohibits the purchase or sale of snipe, woodcock, partridge, quail or wild turkey before September 15, 1894, be changed so as to enlarge the protection till 1897; that clause eight be changed to make the open season for muskrat from January 1 to May 1, but to allow trapping only during April; that in clause eight sable or marten be struck out; that the dates given as the limits of open seasons be both inclusive; that clause 11 sub-sec. 3, be enlarged to allow any non-resident obtaining a license to hunt in Ontario to take out of the Province two deer or less which have been hunted and taken by him upon selling the permit provided; that dogs be not allowed for deer after October 31; that sec. 14, sub-sec. 4, be abolished, except as referring to the Provincial Secretary, and that suspected persons may be searched by wardens or deputies.