

the plan of distribution and administration of the fund had been made by the Government, and they were not averse to receiving further suggestions from the Opposition, though the Opposition did not seem inclined to make any. Sir Oliver then read from the Education Department regulations the rules according to which the grant to poor schools must be administered by the Minister of Education.

Mr. Meredith interrupted the Attorney-General at this point with a remark, and Sir Oliver said emphatically that he declined to be drawn off from his argument. He continued reading the regulations, showing the Minister is hedged in by very severe restrictions, and his discretion limited in every practicable manner. Sir Oliver said it had never been suggested that every poor school which should receive a grant should be named, any more than every district which should receive a share in the grant for colonization roads should be named in advance.

Mr. Meredith asked why not.

Sir Oliver replied that the suggestion had never been made before, and no hon. member on the other side had mentioned it during the present debate. At any rate, he did not think it was practicable. Hon. gentlemen opposite said the distribution was guided by political influence. That was the charge they were making now in connection with everything the Government did, said Sir Oliver emphatically. They were crazy on the subject of political influence. (Ministerial applause.) They made that charge at random, and could not bring forward a single fact in support of it. For 22 years apportionments have been made by the Government to poor schools, and yet no case of an improper grant being made has ever been discovered. (Applause.)

Mr. Marter thought that the grant was a good thing under proper restrictions. But he thought that the grants were made through political influence; practically, they were made through the representative of the county in the House. In his own constituency, his opponent was trying to induce people to vote for him by promising aid to the schools; he himself had never been able to get so much as a map for the schools in his constituency, though his predecessor had managed to get aid. He held that many of the newspapers of the Province regard Mr. Ross as a partisan Minister.

Mr. Stratton again reminded Mr. Marter of his motion at the end of the last Parliament to increase the fund, and defended Mr. Ross for the way in which he has elevated the condition of the poorer schools. A few years ago the Opposition were asking for the grant which now they were resisting. Mr. Stratton then detailed the methods of the granting of the sums and defended the course of the Government in this connection.

Mr. Waters supported the grant, holding that the Province is just now in a position, its Parliament buildings being built and paid for, and being free from debt, to enter into such an expenditure. He was better pleased with the grant for poor schools than with any other dollar of the expenditure of the Province.

Mr. Meredith rallied the Attorney-General on what he termed his sensitiveness upon this subject, and on the way in which he scolded the Opposition for imputing motives. He held that the Opposition could furnish examples of political favoritism in regard to the grant, and once more stated his objection to relinquishing so large a sum to the absolute control of the Government.

Mr. Tait called attention to the continual repetitions indulged in by the Opposition upon this topic, and requested them to furnish some plan by which the required aid could be distributed any better, more efficiently or more equitably than by the system now employed by the Government. The attacks of the Opposition were too vague to arouse serious attention. Their tactics were simply resorted to to waste the time of the House, as the public who heard it and read it next day would fully understand.

A number of votes went through without discussion, and then some debate arose over the vote for the School of Pedagogy. Mr. Meredith expressed some doubt as to the advisability of having this school a separate institution, and asked if the University could not undertake this branch of instruction.

Hon. Mr. Ross, in reply, stated that he would be very glad if such were the case, and entered into a full exposition of the circumstances of the origin of the school, and the question of the teaching of the subject of pedagogy in universities.

Dr. Willoughby expressed doubts as to the efficacy of the school. He thought that the Vice-Principal, Mr. Levan, was not altogether successful. He was also inclined to think it was wrong to send highly-qualified University graduates to learn from men who had no higher qualifications than they.

Mr. Ross explained that these teachers in the school were not to teach English, classics, etc., but to teach the graduates how to teach these subjects.

Mr. Clancy made some inquiries as to details in the work of the school, which Mr. Ross fully explained. Dr. Meacham continued the discussion, and the vote was finally passed.

The committee then rose, stopping at the vote for Normal and Model Schools, over which Mr. Meredith threatened a debate, and the House adjourned at 10.50 o'clock.

#### REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

On the motion for adjournment being put, Mr. Meredith asked when the redistribution bill was coming down. He said the House had been referred from one Minister to another. It looked as if they were all ashamed of it.

The Attorney-General laughingly said the Government had wanted to make the bill so perfect that the Opposition would have no fault to find with it.

Mr. Meredith—When will it be down?

The Attorney-General—I had been hoping it would have been down before this. (Laughter.)

Mr. Meredith referred to a cartoon in connection with the bill, in an evening paper, as a possible indication of its scope.

Sir Oliver remarked:—"I can assure the hon. gentleman that there has been no carving-knife used."

Mr. Meredith—Perhaps a butcher-knife.

The Attorney-General vouchsafed no reply to this, and the House adjourned.