

Supplementary Estimates Presented and Passed.

Legislative Chamber, April 10.

To-day saw the last money vote of the session, and a long step made towards the clearing of the order paper. In the course of the afternoon an amendment by Mr. Whitney in favor of the readjusting of the grant for education so as to give Public Schools a larger share of the public money than they now enjoy was voted down by 48 to 35, and the supplementary estimates, which were brought down in the course of the morning, were all passed. In the evening the grants for railway aid were passed, and some other Government measures advanced.

Third readings, as usual, took up some time at the opening of the morning sitting. The bills which in this way were despatched were Hon. Mr. Ross' to empower the University of Toronto to deal with certain Upper Canada College claims; Mr. Stratton's to confirm a by-law of the united Townships of Burleigh and Anstruther; Mr. Ross' respecting the town of Prescott; Mr. Connec's respecting the municipality of Shuniah; Mr. Howland's to authorize the trustees under the marriage settlement of Jane Prittie and R. W. Prittie to mortgage the trust estate; Hon. Mr. Ross' to amend and consolidate the acts respecting free Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes; Hon. Mr. Ross' respecting the school laws; Mr. Marter's to confer certain powers on the trustees of the will of the late John Lyons; Mr. Davis' to amend the act respecting the fees of counsel and other officers in the administration of justice, and Hon. Mr. Bronson's to amend the railway act of Ontario.

Dr. McKay (Oxford) moved the second reading of his bill respecting medical tariffs. He explained that it repealed the section in the Ontario medical act dealing with tariffs of fees. This, he said, would abolish the Provincial tariff and leave to the various county associations the arranging of their tariffs.

"That's all right," said several members, and by unanimous consent, without debate, the bill was read a second time and passed through Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Mr. Gibson moved the third reading of his bill respecting aid to charitable institutions, but Mr. Whitney objected to the clause requiring a person to spend three months in a municipality before being eligible for assistance from the charitable institutions of the locality. Mr. Gibson agreed to cut the time down to two weeks, but afterwards withdrew the whole clause affected.

The rest of the morning session was given to public bills, a number of which were advanced a stage. The supplementary estimates were laid on the table during an interval in the proceedings of the House.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

More third readings were given when the House reassembled at 3 o'clock. Those thus given the finishing touch were Mr. Pardo's bill to consolidate the debt of Wallaceburg; Hon. Mr. Hardy's respecting the election law; Mr. Gurd's to consolidate the debt of the Village of Oil Springs; Mr. Howland's to amend the act incorporating the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society; Mr. Hobbs' respecting the City of London; Mr. Loughrin's to confirm a by-law of the Township of Springer, and Mr. McKee's to amend the municipal light and heat act.

A number of bills were recalled from their third readings to receive final amendments. Hon. Mr. Harcourt in-

serted in his bill a provision for the public health to guard the rights acquired by decision by two townships adjacent to Peterboro' with regard to the pollution of the Ottonabee by sewage. Hon. Mr. Gibson recalled his bill to amend the bills of sale and chattel mortgages act to add to it the substance of Mr. Wood's bill to amend the act respecting mortgages and sales of personal property.

CLEARING THE ORDER PAPER.

The Government then answered a number of questions by members, rapidly clearing the order paper of this division. Among other questions was one by Mr. Brower: "Is it the intention of section 30 of the High Schools act that the municipalities should raise an equivalent to the Government grant, or the High School districts?" Hon. Mr. Ross replied in the affirmative, adding that the difficulty which had suggested the question had been provided for by the bill just passed.

Mr. Langford asked: "Has it been brought to the attention of the Government that the capital stock of the Toronto Street Railway Company is \$6,000,000, notwithstanding that the act of incorporation, 1892, limits the stock to \$1,000,000? Has the company in any way corresponded with or consulted the Government in reference thereto?"

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that the company had not corresponded with the Government on the matter, and that the terms of its act of incorporation gave the company power to increase its capital stock without application to the Government.

Next came the notices of motion, and a clean sweep was made of these. Two, which were formal, were passed, and the rest were withdrawn, there being no time left for debating them. Mr. Connec was very reluctant to withdraw his mining resolution, but had to yield.

The public bills suffered next. They were taken up, and member after member found himself compelled to arise and, with a melancholy smile, move that his bill be withdrawn. In twenty minutes as many bills had disappeared, and the order paper was more than a page shorter.

DEBATE ON EDUCATION.

The consideration of the supplementary estimates came next, and Hon. Mr. Harcourt moved that the House go into Committee of Supply. Mr. Whitney moved in amendment "that it is desirable that Provincial expenditure for educational purposes should be so appropriated and apportioned as to provide equitably, as far as may be, for the requirements of the whole people; that the interests of higher education are well served by the High Schools, Collegiate Institutes, Colleges and Universities of the Province; that the educational advantages at the disposal of the great mass of the people through the medium of the Public Schools are not in proportion to their just claims under an equitable distribution of school expenditure, having regard to the relative merits of primary and higher education, and particularly to the fact that 95 per cent. of the children of the Province receive all their education in the Public Schools; and that, in the opinion of this House, a scheme should be devised by which the sphere of the Public Schools should be widened and enlarged so as to afford to the children of the agricultural population further and increased opportunities of obtaining such higher education in the Public Schools as may be practicable there."

The educational system of Ontario is on the whole a good one, Mr. Whitney said, and he agreed that few countries are so favored in the matter of schools. He would not admit, however, that all had been done that should have been done, nor did he think that all that had been done had been done in the best possible way for the interests of the Province. The Public Schools afford all the education which 95 per cent. of the people can receive, he went on, and while he did not ask exceptional consideration for them, yet he did contend that the High Schools had been brought to such a pitch of excellence that it was now time for the Government to turn its attention to the Public Schools, so as to widen, broaden and enlarge their curricula and sphere. All admitted and knew the vast progress made in school matters in the last quarter of a century, he said, and he thought they should see to it that the next quarter of a century should see an equally great advance on present-day methods and conditions. This advance should be made on the line of the improvement of the Public Schools, the schools to