

must look for all their

THE MINISTER'S REPLY.

Mr. Ross spoke in reply, commencing, first, as to the lateness of the hour chosen by Mr. Whitney for introducing this resolution, and then remarking that the resolution omitted to mention the way in which the school system should be improved. Mr. Whitney had not mentioned a single subject that should be added. Mr. Whitney said that 55 per cent. of the pupils of the Province were in the Public Schools, but no other school system in the world sent so many pupils to the secondary schools. The number sent to these schools in Ontario is twice the proportion sent by the Public Schools of the United States. Mr. Ross then forcibly criticized the indentures of the resolution, saying that when an amendment to the municipal act was desired a bill was brought in specifying the relief wanted.

Next, Mr. Ross turned to statistics, dealing directly with Mr. Whitney's general charge that a disproportionate amount of the grant goes to the High Schools. In the last ten years, he said, the grants to the Public Schools have increased by 34 per cent., while the school population has increased 7 per cent.; the High School grants have increased by 30 per cent., while the High School population has increased by no less than 186 per cent. In 1867 the expenditure was \$9 43 for every pupil in the High Schools; in 1882, when Mr. Ross entered on his duties as Minister, the vote was \$6 83 per pupil; now it is but \$4 58 per pupil. Meantime, in the last twenty years the grant per pupil for Public Schools has increased from 5 cents to 56 cents. Further, twenty years ago the High Schools were maintained by the public money, while now the pupils attending contribute largely to the maintenance of the schools. In 1867 only \$15,000 was contributed by the High School pupils in fees, while last year no less than \$105,676 was received in fees. And Mr. Ross concluded with the remark that it is an undoubted fact that higher education costs more than primary education, even in the Public Schools, and that the High School attendance had doubled in the last ten or twelve years owing to the efficiency of the Public Schools.

Dr. Meacham spoke at some length, criticizing the education system of the Government, and laying special stress upon the falling off in the attendance in the fifth form of the Public Schools, and urging that the price of text-books should be materially reduced.

The vote was then taken, and the amendment was beaten by a vote of 48 to 35, the Patrons, with the exception of Messrs. McPherson and Pardo, voting with the Conservatives.

The supplementary estimates were then taken up, and were passed through Committee of Supply without trouble.

Hon. John Dryden explained the \$10,000 item for the erection of an experimental building at the Ontario Agricultural College. It was to provide accommodation for the teaching of chemistry and bacteriology, he said, and to allow of the re-arrangement of the class-rooms to relieve an overcrowded condition caused by larger attendance of students, the extension of the subject of chemistry to first year classes and the general enlargement of the college's work. The building had been asked for in the reports of the President of the college for several years.

Dr. Willoughby, who had asked for the explanation, expressed himself as well satisfied with the proposed expenditure. With only a question or two, to which satisfactory replies were made by the Government, the supplementary estimates were all passed and then concurred in by the House before 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

In the evening the House addressed itself to the railway aid resolutions, which embraced a bonus of \$3,000 a mile to the Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound Railway for 37 miles to complete the connection between Ottawa and Parry Sound; a revote of \$2,000 a mile to the Tilsonburg, Lake Erie & Pacific Railway for 16 miles, from Tilsonburg to Port Burwell; a revote of \$4,500 to the Penetanguishene & Midland Electric Street Railway to connect Penetanguishene with the Reformatory; a bonus of \$3,000 a mile for 45 miles of the Ontario & Rainy River Railway, and finally a vote of \$50,000 for an inter-provincial bridge at Nepean Point, between Ottawa and Hull, the conditions being that the bridge is to cost not less than \$600,000, and that the Dominion shall contribute \$100,000 and

Quebec \$50,000 for it. These passed through without trouble, though some comment was made by Mr. Whitney and Mr. Howland upon the last-mentioned vote.

Hon. Mr. Bronson then brought his electric railway bill back into committee and added several amendments. One gave mechanics working for any company incorporated under the act a lien for 30 days' wages upon the company; another fixed the penalty for violations of the Sunday observance clause. The clause provides that for every train or car run on the line on Sunday a penalty of \$400 shall be inflicted, recoverable in County Court at the suit of any person. Further, the conductor in charge of the train or car shall be liable to the penalties provided in the act respecting the profanation of the Lord's Day.

The bill consolidating the various amendments to the municipal act passed in the session came up next and passed through committee, an animated debate over the snow-clearing clause ending in the clause being made to apply to Toronto alone.

VACANT LANDS ASSESSMENT.

The much-discussed bill to have vacant lands in the city taxed as farm lands then came up in committee. Mr. Crawford moved to strike out the clause which expunges from the general municipal act the words "if the Council so direct," explaining that he had been under the impression that it had been done in the committee. He argued vigorously against making the reduction of the valuation of vacant lands compulsory. Mr. Howland held that very little difference would be made by the change, and Mr. Gorman opposed the motion, holding that the vote in the committee had been taken fairly and squarely; Mr. Chapple supported him in this, and the clause finally passed.

When the bill had passed, Hon. G. W. Ross gave the House a respite from routine work by moving, seconded by Mr. Howland, that in view of the invitation extended to the British Association to meet in Toronto in 1887, and of the advantage accruing to the Province from such a visit, the House pledge itself to contribute \$7,500 towards the expenses of the meeting. Hon. Mr. Ross supported this in a speech in which he eulogized the character of the association, and enlarged upon the national advantage to be gained from the meeting. Sir Oliver Mowat, Mr. Howland and Mr. Haycock supported this, and it went through without opposition.

Hon. Mr. Hardy moved then that, inasmuch as by the supplementary estimates which had been passed, the sum of \$400 had been appropriated for art purposes, a committee composed of the Speaker and Messrs. Gibson, Harcourt, Garrow, Hobbs, Whitney, Ryerson, Howland, Cayen, McPherson and himself be chosen to supervise the expenditure of this grant; he suggested that this might advantageously be laid out in buying pictures by Canadian artists for the ornamenting of the Parliament buildings. Mr. Whitney briefly and cordially assented, and the motion passed.

The House then adjourned, at 11 p.m.