

CHANGES IN THE SCHOOL LAW

Important Measure Introduced by Hon. Mr. Ross.

Bill Introduced by the Attorney-General Respecting Assignments—A Question Answered—Notes of the Day.

Monday, Feb. 24.

Ta-day's sitting was the briefest yet, the House adjourning a quarter of an hour after opening. A couple of Government measures were introduced, and a question asked by Mr. Preston as to the qualification of Mr. Blue, the director of the Bureau of Mines, was answered by Mr. Hardy, who bore emphatic testimony to the value to the Province of the services of this most useful public servant.

The bills introduced were as follows :

Hon. Mr. Ross—An act consolidating and revising the Public School act.

Sir Oliver Mowat—An act respecting certain proceedings under the act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent persons.

A USEFUL PUBLIC SERVANT.

Dr. Preston asked :—What was the occupation of the present director of mines previous to appointment to his present position? Is he a graduate of any mining school or institution? Has he ever had any practical experience as a miner?

Hon. Mr. Hardy's reply was as follows :—

(1) The director of the Bureau of Mines was a member of the royal commission appointed to report on the mineral resources of the Province and secretary of the commission, and the report of that commission, which has been highly spoken of by eminent authorities and has been in active demand ever since it was issued, was largely his work.

(2) He was for ten years previous to his appointment to his present position secretary of the Bureau of Industries, which he organized, and was for the greater part of that time Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

(3) He is not a mining engineer nor a graduate of a mining school, nor has he ever worked as a miner with pick and shovel, but he has given much study to minerals and to mining in all its phases with a view to qualifying himself for the collection and dissemination of information respecting the mines and minerals of the Province and the best means of their development. A large part of this work is of a scientific and literary character, for

which working in a mine would not of itself be a full qualification.

Mr. Hardy added that the reports which have from year to year been issued from the bureau are in many instances vastly superior to the reports of a similar character issued by the various States of the Union and by other countries. They are sought for and applied for by many other countries, such as Australia, Italy, etc., and some people have gone so far as to say that they are the best issued in any State.

Mr. Crawford withdrew his motion regarding non-interference with Manitoba in order to rectify an error in the wording of it.

This exhausted the order paper, and the House adjourned at 3.25 p.m.

PROCEDURE IN ASSIGNMENTS.

The bill which Sir Oliver Mowat introduced to-day provides that where a person having a claim against an estate assigned under the act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent persons holds security for such claim or any part thereof of such a nature that he is required by the act to value the same, and if he fails so to do the County Judge may on summary application by the assignee or other person interested in the estate order that unless a specified value shall be placed on the security and notified in writing to the assignee within a time to be limited by the owner, the claimant shall, in respect to the claim for which the security is held, be barred on any right to share in the proceeds of the estate. The act further provides the mode of procedure where the assignee is satisfied with the proof given in respect to any claim but the debtor desires to dispute it, such procedure to be by the debtor giving notice in writing to the assignee stating the grounds upon which he disputes the claim. If the assignee does not require claimant to bring an action to establish his claim the debtor may apply to the County Judge for an order requiring the assignee to give a notice of contestation with the consent of the claimant. The validity of the claim may be decided in a summary manner before the Judge making the order, and authorizing the debtor, in the event of an action being brought, to intervene at the trial either personally or by proxy.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Crawford's resolution on the Manitoba school question as amended will read as follows :—“That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario feel deep interest in all that concerns the well-being of every part of the Dominion of Canada;

“That the people of this Province, believing in the principle of Provincial rights, rejoice that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain declared the Legislature of Manitoba acted within their judicial rights in abolishing the dual system of schools and establishing a single national system of education in lieu thereof in the Province of Manitoba;

“That we regard the legislation now being contemplated by the Dominion Government, and known as the remedial bill, the object of which is to abolish the national system of Manitoba and restore the old dual system in its place, unfavorably;

“That this Legislature cannot but look upon the legislation which is being promoted at Ottawa as an attack upon the legislative rights of a sister Province and as a measure fraught with grave danger to the peace and prosperity of Confederation, and, consequently, we hope even yet that the Dominion Government will decide to abandon the course it is at present following and to leave Manitoba to manage her own educational affairs in the way that seems best to the people of that Province.”

Mr. Gibson (Huron) gives notice of a bill to amend the consolidated assessment act of 1892.

Mr. Chapple gives notice of a bill to amend the municipal act.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION.

In order to prevent changes in the school laws the Minister of Education laid down the policy several years ago that no amendments affecting to any appreciable degree their general working should be made except at intervals of five years. As the last amendment were made in 1891, the present Parliament, in accordance with this policy, is asked to consider several questions of considerable importance.

Owing to the large number of persons who come up to the annual de-