

respecting the supreme court of the independent Order of Foresters, Mr. Truxax's to confirm by-law No. 486 of Walkerton, and Mr. Flatt's respecting the jail of the County of Wentworth—received their final reading.

STREET RAILWAY REGULATIONS

Government orders followed, and the House went into committee, with Mr. Garrow in the chair, on Hon. Mr. Bronson's bill to make further provision respecting street railways. The bill passed with the exception of the clause regulating the issue of shares, which, after some discussion, the Government allowed to stand over. That clause contained a provision directing that issues of stock subsequent to the first should be sold by public tender at or above par. To this Mr. Whitney objected, as an unwarrantable interference with private enterprises.

Hon. Mr. Bronson dissented from the view that street railways were altogether private enterprises. They existed by means of public franchises, they profited by public patronage, and the public were interested in profiting by low fares. It was desirable that the capital of these companies should be kept as low as possible, so as to prevent exorbitant profits being reaped by companies by means of apparently low dividends paid on unduly large capital.

Mr. Whitney stuck to his point. They were private enterprises, and they were trying to fix the price of a commodity offered to the public. They might as well try to fix the price of bread.

Sir Oliver Mowat observed that the regulation affected the first issue of stock only. He added that he had known of cases where persons had paid five cents on the dollar, receiving in return paid-up stock for the whole amount. That had struck him as outrageous, and it was most useful and just that the first issue should be at par.

Mr. Whitney asked if such regulations were prescribed in the case of steam railways.

Sir Oliver Mowat replied that he believed in advancing, and Mr. Whitney responded that he considered this a retrograde step.

Hon. Mr. Bronson observed, with reference to another provision that further issues of stock shall be sold by public tender, that it was due to the original subscribers to the stock.

Finally, at Hon. Mr. Gibson's suggestion, the clause was allowed to stand over for a few days.

The rest of the bill passed, Hon. Mr. Bronson inserting several amendments, the most important of which was one ensuring to laborers engaged on construction work a lien for 30 days' wages.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's bill revising and consolidating the acts respecting the registration of births, marriages and deaths was then considered in committee and a good part of it passed. A number of emendations were introduced by Hon. Mr. Harcourt. Dr. McKay (Oxford) wanted to have the burden of registration of births taken from the shoulders of medical men, as that was the duty of the parents; however, the committee did not accept his suggestion at once. Hon. Mr. Harcourt, however, said that he was anxious to consider the suggestions which had been offered, and the committee accordingly "asked leave to sit again."

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL BILL.

Hon. Mr. Ross' comprehensive and important bill consolidating and revising the Public School acts then came up for its second reading. A full summary of the bill has already appeared in The Globe, and Mr. Ross ran over its main features, pointing out that provisions are made for the first meeting of boards, and the steps by which it was proposed to reorganize the county rate so as to equalize the burden and help weaker sections. Further, he pointed out that the care of pupils is transferred from the regulations to the act, and Mr. Ross also spoke briefly upon the proposition of the bill that the summer holidays should be extended arrangements being made to put the Teachers' Institutes meetings during the extension of time granted.

The bill was discussed at considerable length, and, as Hon. Mr. Ross observed, the discussion was remarkably painstaking and sincere. Mr. Stratton led in the debate, suggesting that instead of three trustees being elected every year five might be elected, one dropping out every year. As for the proposal to equalize the burden, which consists of a stipulation that by a county tax \$50 shall

be raised for every school, and \$25 additional for every assistant teacher, Mr. Stratton sympathized with the object of the clause, but was doubtful whether it would work; he was inclined to think it would result in a portion of the strong aiding a portion of the weak. He added several examples from his own county (Peterboro') to show that it would work inequitably.

Both Mr. McNichol and Mr. Gamey, Patron members for South and Centre Grey, respectively, advocated a shortening of the summer holidays as advisable in their district, where the heavy snowfall renders winter attendance difficult. They suggested that the trustees have the option of making the summer term four weeks instead of six.

Mr. Garrow was inclined to fear that the attempt to equalize the burdens would not work. The discussion was continued by Messrs. McDonald, Matheson, McKay (Victoria), Reid (Addington), Willoughby, Cleland, Blezard, Gibson (Huron), Kerns, Meacham, Haycock, Magwood and Haggerty. Dr. McKay suggested that instead of the equalization of the county tax the township grant of \$100 per school be increased to \$150, thus equalizing matters in the townships. Mr. Cleland and Mr. Blezard disagreed with this clause, and Mr. Gibson thought it would lead to irritation. Mr. Haycock added that while he sympathized with the object the present clause would be very unpopular. Mr. Haycock suggested that a clause be added to prevent trustees being interested in contracts with the School Board, and was promptly told by Hon. Mr. Ross that provision for that was already made.

After a promise by Mr. Ross to consider all the suggestions made, the bill was then given its second reading.

THE LICENSE SYSTEM.

The Government then moved that the House go into committee of supply, and Mr. Marter moved the following amendment to the motion:—"That all the words in the motion after 'that' be omitted and the following substituted therefor: "The present mode of administering the liquor license laws through the Boards of Commissioners and Inspectors appointed by the Government of the day has resulted in a partizan administration of the law, has subjected those engaged in the liquor traffic to undue influence by and in the interest of the dominant party in this Province, has led in many cases to the tyrannical exercise of the powers of the commissioners and inspectors, and in others to the lax enforcement of the law and the condoning for partizan purposes of offences against its provisions, has unduly and unfairly interfered with the freedom of exercising their franchise by those engaged in the liquor traffic, and is otherwise mischievous in its purpose and operation; and while declaring its firm intention to be, not to relax or impair the efficiency of the law, and particularly limiting the number of licenses to be granted, this House is of the opinion that it is essential to the honest, non-partizan and faithful execution of the liquor license laws that the present mode of appointing Boards of Commissioners should be abrogated, and that in future the Boards of Commissioners in counties should consist of the County Judge, the Warden of the county and one appointed by the Government, and in cities and towns not connected with the county municipally the County Judge, Mayor and one appointed by the Government."

In moving this Mr. Marter said that it was no new question, and that he knew he would be told that the Government had taken over the license system at the request of the temperance people, but that argument had been successfully met. In taking over the appointment of the inspectors, Mr. Marter said, the Government did so designedly and deliberately to benefit itself. It was safe to say, he went on, that there was not one Conservative to be found on a License Board in the Province. The reason alleged had been that it was impossible to work a law with hostile subordinates, but that was surely a high compliment to the Conservatives to say that one Conservative could neutralize two Liberals. The Government, he claimed, were always anxious to get rid of Conservatives on the License Boards in order to use the