

that these books were made in free trade England was the reason that their price was so high. This was evidence of the truth that free trade does not make everything cheap. Unless the conditions were the same it was no argument to say that the prices here were as low as those in another country. The question was, Could the book be produced at a less cost? All over the rural districts there was a general complaint as to cost of text-books.

Mr. Garrow brought down two bills—one to amend the assessment act, the object of which is to place electric light works upon the same footing as gas works, so far as the exemption of their personalty is concerned; and the other to amend the Division Courts act. This bill provides for notice of motion for summary judgment in the Division Court in suits for the recovery of \$25 and upwards, brought for recovery on debt or money demand. At present the right to move for judgment in this way is limited to cases where the amount involved exceeds \$40.

Col. Matheson suggested that the School of Science work should be handed over to the University of Toronto, as it was of the same character as the work in some departments there.

Mr. Ross replied that while some of the work was of the same kind, and in fact some of the theoretical instruction of the school students was obtained in the University, with which the school was affiliated, the practical work had to be done in a special school.

Col. Matheson had a lot of fun with the list of books recommended for Public Libraries and the classification of books in it, claiming that books which should be classed as fiction were placed under other heads, and so the statement which Mr. Ross had made that the proportion of fiction read had decreased greatly in the last twenty years was misleading. Col. Matheson had a more serious charge than this to make in connection with the grant of \$56,000 for Public Libraries, Art Schools, literary and scientific service. This was that the Superintendent of Public Libraries had taken advantage of his position to make money. He was told that in the preparation of his catalogue he asked the publishers to send him copies of books, and that his son, who was a bookseller, undersold the trade with the books so received. Mr. Ross replied that he had heard stories of this kind and had asked the Superintendent about it, who explained that when he was preparing the catalogue he sent to the publishers to know if they would send copies of books with which he was not familiar. Whether the books were sent or not Mr. Ross did not know. Any publisher would send him books to see if they were suitable to put upon the list, and what he did with them afterwards he did not know. The total number received could not be more than one or two dozen. Col. Whitney said that he understood that case after case was so received. Mr. Ross was certain that this could not be so, but promised to look into the matter thoroughly and obtain a statement of the number received.

Upon the question of the classification of books Mr. Whitney and Mr. Ross had by far the liveliest cross fire of the session. Mr. Whitney accused Mr. Ross of evading the question at issue "as usual," and was sharply called to order by the Minister of Education for the insinuations which he continually threw across the floor of the House.

The grant of \$193,022 for the Department of Agriculture was then taken up. Mr. Dryden fully explained the items of the appropriation for service, which is \$6,000 less than last year. Of the \$138,350 for service, one-half is given to agricultural societies.

The House was adjourned before any of the items were voted upon.

RAINY RIVER RAILWAY.

The claims of the Ontario & Rainy River Railway were very forcibly presented to the consideration of the Government by an influential and representative deputation to-day. This road, if built, will open up a large territory of country lying between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods, rich in mineral and agricultural possibilities. The road has already been subsidized by the Ontario Government to the extent of \$3,000 a mile for 80 miles, and the deputation wanted a subsidy of \$5,000 for 150 miles that will be traversed from the point at which the line leaves the Port Arthur, Duluth & Western, 40 miles west of Port Arthur, un-

til it reaches Swell Bay on Rainy Lake, twenty miles east of Fort Frances. The ultimate intention of the projectors is to extend the road to Fort Frances but in the meantime it will be terminated at Swell Bay, as the intervening twenty miles presents many difficulties of construction. The road will afford transportation facilities for the richest portion of New Ontario and will serve the gold region and the iron ranges. The argument was put forward that the Province would be amply repaid by the sale of mining and agricultural lands and by the increased trade which would result from the development of the district. Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P., introduced the gentlemen who addressed the Ministers. The speakers were Messrs. D. F. Burk, Mayor Marks, Port Arthur; Mayor McKellar, Fort William; B. A. Folger, Kingston; Judge Kingsmill, Toronto; G. O. P. Clavet, Port Arthur; Thomas Marks, I. L. Matthews, Lieut.-Col. Ray, J. J. O'Connor, Port Arthur, and B. E. Walker, General Manager of the Bank of Commerce.

Mr. Hardy, in reply, said that the arguments had been ably and tersely put, so much so as almost to convince him that the Government ought to do something. He was afraid the speakers had actually convinced some of his colleagues already. The Government would take an early opportunity to consider the question and see if they could do something or otherwise. Besides representatives from Toronto, Kingston and other places there were in the delegation Mayor Marks, J. J. O'Connor, Thos. Marks, D. F. Burk, J. L. Meikle, I. L. Matthews, J. I. McGovern, Col. S. W. Ray, A. F. Mills, F. Weatherspoon, Thos. Squires, Geo. R. Thompson, W. J. Clark, Port Arthur; Mayor McKellar, E. A. Morton, John King, Fort William.

Before Gladstone avenue was extended northward the cost of the work was estimated at \$9,000, but when the land damages were reckoned with the figure was increased to \$32,000. The addition of interest increased the cost of the extension to \$36,000. Some Gladstone avenue property-owners refused to pay the local improvement assessment, claiming that the by-law had been illegally passed. They went to the courts. Now the city proposes as a compromise to share the cost of the work with the property-owners. The city's bill contained a provision enabling the city to pay half the rates on the property south of Hamilton street. The principle of legislative interference was approved, and a sub-committee composed of Messrs. Gibson, Crawford, Dana, Taylor and Pardo was appointed to determine the proportions of the cost to be borne by the different classes of property-owners.

IN THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. W. J. Robertson, M.A., teacher of mathematics and history in the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute, was examined in the Public Accounts Committee this morning upon the terms of the publication of his books, the "Public School History" and the "High School Algebra." Col. Matheson conducted the examination, which showed that Mr. Robertson had prepared the algebra book before it was authorized by the department, running the risk of not having its use permitted in the schools.

Col. Matheson tried to elicit a statement of the amount received in royalties on the book, but Mr. Robertson refused to state the amount, beyond the fact that it was 71-2 per cent., one-half the royalty of 15 per cent. given to the joint authors. Col. Matheson asked for a ruling on the question, and on Mr. Charlton's ruling against him appealed to the committee, who upheld the Chairman's ruling that Mr. Robertson need not answer the question. Mr. Thomas Southworth, Clerk of Forestry, was also examined by Mr. Mac-nish upon the duties of his office, and gave a detailed description of the work done by him in connection with the reforestry of the pine areas of the country. He expressed the opinion that we had an inexhaustible timber supply, provided that reforestry measures were adopted.

A deputation representing several of the loan companies interviewed the Government to-day and discussed the provisions of Mr. Gibson's bill concerning loan companies. The principal request made of the Ministers was that separate legislation should be provided for the two classes of companies, permanent and terminating building societies.