

ahead and develop the power or relinquish their franchise and let another company occupy the ground. The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. Pattullo.

On the motion to go into supply Major Kerns offered an amendment, which read:—"The House regrets the large and steady increase in the ordinary expenditure of the Province, greatly exceeding the increase of the revenue, and also regrets that the Province has not kept within the revenue, and that the Province has to depend to a very large extent on the Crown lands receipts to meet ordinary expenditure." The amendment was supported by Col. Matheson and lost.

The Educational System.

When the motion to go into supply was again made Mr. Whitney moved in amendment:—

"This House observes with anxiety the evidences of dissatisfaction in the public mind with the working and results of the educational system of the Province, and is of opinion that a scheme should be devised by which the sphere of the Public Schools may be remodelled and, where necessary, widened and enlarged, with the view of affording to those pupils whose education begins and ends with such schools such further and increased educational advantages as may be practicable. This House is also of opinion that, among other desirable changes, there should be created a consultative or advisory council for the assistance of the Minister of Education, on which council should be represented all the teaching bodies in the Province, and this House is also of opinion that steps should be taken to reduce the price of school books, and thus lessen materially the burden now imposed upon and borne by the people of the Province by reason of the large sums they are compelled to pay for such books."

The Minister's Reply.

Mr. Ross made a brief but effective defence of the educational system and of its administration. He expressed his astonishment that while Mr. Whitney—"this Delphic oracle"—had demanded that the Public School system should be remodelled, he had not indicated in what way it should be remodelled. The Minister said that if he were going to remodel the system it would be in the direction of its modification rather than its extension, because if there was any complaint it was not that it was too limited, but that it was too comprehensive. A limited curriculum well taught was the best system for the Public School. As to the proposition to create an advisory board of experts, the Minister pointed out that there were at the present time available sources of information and advice that could not be improved upon. The experience of the whole teaching profession was at the disposal of the department. Dr. Ryerson had found it impossible to work with an advisory board and it was abolished. If an advisory board was necessary in the Education Department why not in all the other departments of Government? Moreover, the proposition was inconsistent with the principles of responsible government. Upon the question of the cost of text-books he

pointed out that the commission appointed to inquire into the matter, composed of his Honor Judge Morgan, Mr. James Bain and Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, had, after holding 21 meetings and taking evidence of practical men, reported that the readers are of superior quality of paper and binding, and that the retail price now charged for the books is not excessive and cannot be reduced below the price fixed. The text-books of Ontario are represented in every Province in the Dominion, which in itself is a tribute to their excellence and cheapness, and the system of royalties had been found to be the cheapest for the public and the best for all concerned.

Mr. Haycock characterized the amendment as more than double-barrelled, in fact a regular Gatling gun, containing three different questions, one of which, that relating to the Public School system not going far enough, he was in hearty accord. He could not agree with that which favors the establishing of an advisory. With regard to the price of school books he appreciated the reduction in price that has been made. As he was not in sympathy with the most important clause in the resolution he could not by voting yea or nay upon the resolution, as it stood, correctly record his opinion.

The amendment was lost on division.

The House went into committee upon the bill to amend the act of incorporation of the Toronto & Scarborough Electric Railway, Light & Power Co. (Ltd.).

Mr. John Richardson moved an amendment, which was unanimously carried, providing that the rates of fares on the road to all parts of the city shall be ten cents return fare between 5 and 8 a.m. and 5 and 7 p.m., and on statutory holidays and civic holidays of Toronto and East Toronto, and on Saturday afternoons from 12 noon until 7.30 p.m., and 15 cents on all other days at all hours, the last car to leave the Woodbine for East Toronto at 11.30 p.m.

As so amended the bill was passed.

The Piggery.

Upon the motion of Mr. Charlton for the adoption of the report of the Public Accounts Committee the Opposition brought on a discussion. Col. Matheson made the assertion that to the extent of his opportunities Mr. St. John had proved every charge he had made in regard to the piggery. He charged that there had been expenditures not shown in the public accounts and not appropriated by the Legislature.

No reply was vouchsafed the Colonel, and the silence of the Ministers was interpreted by Mr. Marter as a confession that the case was so bad as to be indefensible. He gave his version of the evidence adduced before the committee. Mr. Garrow denied that the Opposition had established any part of the charge that diseased hogs had been sold from the piggery. When Dr. Willoughby had spoken Mr. Whitney stood up and delivered a fiery speech, in which he condemned what he alleged to be unfair partiality of the majority of the Public Accounts Committee. He denied that Mr. St. John had stated that the piggery had cost \$30,000. Mr. Macnish, who was present at the meeting at St. Thomas where Mr. St. John made his first piggery