

made at the suggestion of the late County Councils. The commissioners, in following this advice, had misunderstood the special grounds upon which they had been elected. No County Council had, however, expressed disapproval, and, on the other hand, many had expressed opposite views. As to Mr. Whitney calling the County Council a school, he said he did not know that the school system extended to grown-up men, nor was he aware that the school system goes to the extent of paying scholars \$3 a day to attend. It was a new outbreak of his hon. friend in respect to his educational policy. (Laughter and applause.)

The bill was sent to the Municipal Committee.

Out of Order.

Mr. Crawford moved the second reading of his bill to regulate the overcrowding of street cars.

Hon. Mr. Hardy raised the point of order that the measure was in the nature of a private bill, inasmuch as it dealt with one matter only and applied to one company and one city only.

The Speaker held the point well taken, and the order was discharged. The bill will have to be reintroduced as a private bill if it is to get a second reading.

Mr. Brower's Bills Withdrawn.

Mr. Brower moved the second reading of his bill to amend the education act by altering the representation on the Educational Council by the addition of three public school teachers. Mr. Ross explained in detail the method adopted in selecting the council and the important work devolving upon it, and pointed out the difficulties that would follow proportionate representation of the public and high school teachers. At the present time there was a representative of each university on the council, while the high and public school teachers are represented, although not by statute. This year a prominent teacher of the City of Toronto represents the public school teachers, and a prominent teacher in the City of London represents the high school teachers. The year before a prominent school inspector represented the inspectors. The proposed amendment would disturb arrangements which had worked well, and, as the bill would serve no good purpose, it was withdrawn.

Mr. Kidd's bill respecting county buildings and Mr. Mutrie's bill respecting the work of municipal Auditors went to committee.

Mr. Brower moved the second reading of his bill to do away with the granting of provisional certificates to teachers. He indicated that these were frequently granted to political friends of the Government. Mr. Ross, in reply, said the inspector could not give a certificate without the approval of the County Board of Examiners, the other two members of which being teachers were not interested in multiplying the number. The withdrawal of the primary certificates might cause a scarcity of teachers which the county boards of examiners would have no means of meeting if the bill passed. A number of years ago there were 950 of these permits; last year only 40, or a less average than one for each of the 81

inspectors. The bill meant a censure, a vote of want of confidence in every inspector in the country.

Mr. Brower said there were a number of teachers with permits in Elgin County who had no schools and a number also who had.

Mr. Ross said he would inquire and see if the privilege was being used as the hon. gentleman said. His own impression was that there were not three permits in Elgin County, and he would be surprised if there were two. The bill was withdrawn.

Mercantile Assessment.

Mr. German moved the second reading of his bill to amend the assessment act, and in doing so admitted that the bill made a material change in the existing law, but one that was, he contended, in the interest of the public generally, and would give an equitable assessment of mercantile businesses. The bill was permissive in its nature, and he thought should go to the committee for discussion and perhaps modification.

Mr. Whitney took exception to the bill, which, as he understood it, was intended to depute to the different municipalities of the Province the power to make a special law to suit their particular locality. He did not propose to support the bill, believing that there should be a uniform assessment law.

Hon. Mr. Hardy admitted that the bill was important and radical in its provisions, but thought perhaps it would be best to let it go to the committee, where it could be thoroughly discussed.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt reminded the House that there was precedent for the bill in Glasgow, which was probably the best governed city in the world.

The bill was then read a second time

and referred to the committee, it being understood that the House was not committed to the principle.

Mr. Brower moved the second reading of his bill, which has for its object the relief of municipalities from frivolous and vexatious suits for damages arising out of accidents on the public highways.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said the courts had gone on from time to time and strained the law as against the municipalities and in favor of the plaintiffs, until the municipalities might be regarded almost as insurers against accidents. If the interpretation of the law as it stands is correct, then the act goes further than was intended. The bill might go to the Legal Committee, although there are some clauses in it to which he took exception.

The bill was sent to the committee.

Mr. Thompson's (Centre Simcoe) bill to make it clear that municipalities which have established waterworks systems may furnish water to adjoining municipalities was also read a second time and referred to committee.

The House adjourned.

North Toronto's Separation.

This afternoon Messrs. W. J. Hill (West York) and John Richardson (East York) introduced a large deputation composed of representatives of the County of York and Town of North Toronto, respectively, who desired to lay their views before the Government in reference to the separation of the town from the county. County Coun-