

FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

Bonus Resolutions Go Over Until
Next Session.

IMPROVED EDUCATION.

Hon. Mr. Ross' Bill Passed Through
Committee — Regulations For
Sawing Logs Will be Enforced.

Parliament Buildings, March 9.

The members of the Legislature did a heavy day's work to-day. Commencing in the committees at 10 o'clock in the morning, with commendable persistency they stuck closely to their work until 11 o'clock to-night. In the House the bill to improve the public school law was passed through committee after an interesting debate. The discussion upon the resolution that the bonusing system should be abolished gave rise to a prolonged debate, which was concluded by Mr. Pattullo withdrawing the resolution for the present session, after it had been clearly demonstrated that the views of the members upon the subject were so divergent that it would be impossible to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion by the adoption of either the resolution or the amendments. Although the matter did not come up in the House, Hon. Mr. Hardy, in reply to an inquiry, gave an emphatic denial to the report that the Government intended relaxing the regulations requiring all logs cut on Crown lands to be sawn in Canada.

To Improve Public School Law.

The House again went into committee upon the bill to improve the law respecting public schools.

Hon. Mr. Ross moved the insertion of a clause providing for a union of adjoining school sections in the establishment and maintenance of continuation classes by mutual arrangement.

Mr. Wardell raised the question that this bill imposed additional taxation, inasmuch as it required additional sums to be raised for continuation classes, and also required the people to spend more money for books.

Hon. Mr. Ross inquired what additional books were authorized.

Mr. Wardell in reply instanced the fact that agriculture was made a sub-

ject of study, and text-books would have to be procured by the pupils. He objected that there are several useless subjects now taught in the public school course, and especially objected to the subject of agriculture being introduced in schools in cities, as not one pupil in 500 in these schools went on the farm.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross asserted that this is not a bill to increase or lessen taxation. It would reduce the cost of education in the case of pupils who had formerly been put to considerable expense, by reason of having to attend high schools, in order to get preliminary training for teacher's certificates, but who could now avail themselves of the facilities afforded in the continuation classes. Thousands of students are now receiving training in the preliminary stages of the high school course at their homes, thereby saving the additional expense formerly involved in attending the high schools in towns and cities. The bill does not require the addition of a single text-book to the public school course. Agriculture will be taught in rural schools, but it is not intended to be taught in the cities or towns, although he thought it would be no harm if it were, but it was intended to give them a little more commercial work instead.

Mr. Hoyle asked that provision be made that continuation classes should have not less than twelve pupils in attendance.

Mr. Wardell asked what subjects were to be added to the course of study.

Hon. Mr. Ross explained that there would be an advanced course in English. Grammar, literature and geography will be carried further, and the whole course will be made stronger, fuller, more nutritious and more generous. Agriculture will be the only new subject.

Mr. Wardell objected to the employment of a board of three architects to pass upon plans for school buildings, and also to the appointment of a commission to settle the question of rearrangement of school sections in the Manitoulin Island.

Mr. Farwell taunted the Opposition with being afraid of the very name of official. He strongly supported the bill.

Mr. Whitney had been informed that the hon. member for East Algoma (Mr. Farwell) had good reason to dread the name of "official," inasmuch as he had just prior to the general election secured the appointment of his brother to an office, but had kept it secret until after the election, for fear that it would affect the result. No more unpopular appointment than that

of the hon. member's brother had ever been made since the hon. gentleman entered public life. Respecting the provisions applying to Manitoulin Island, he approved some steps to afford better facilities for the people of the Manitoulin Island, but thought that people who were on the spot would be better able to re-divide the sections satisfactorily than a special commission. He suggested that the County Judge could satisfactorily settle such matters.

Hon. Mr. Ross would be quite willing to have the Inspector of the district made one of the commissioners.