

schools may appoint one member, such as Upper Canada College.

An amendment was also introduced by Mr. Harcourt providing that in the case of a vacancy in the office of President, the senior professor of University College may act for and perform his duties.

The clauses making provision for the federation of Trinity University were amended to provide that on notification by Trinity before May 1, 1904, that they are desirous of federation, three persons shall be appointed, one a member of Trinity corporation, one a member of the university senate, and the third a High Court Judge, who shall inquire into and consider articles of agreement for federation.

The committee reported progress.

Another Railway Grant.

The Premier announced that one item had been omitted from the railways to be subsidized. He therefore proposed to add a clause that a subsidy of \$10,000 (\$7,500 revoted) be given the Grand Trunk Railway to construct a spur line from Burk's Falls to the Magnetawan River.

Hon. Mr. Latchford introduced the bills respecting aid to certain railways already announced, and they were read a first and second time.

Assessment Bill Withdrawn.

The Premier moved the House into committee on his bill to amend the assessment act. He said that when it had been discussed on the previous occasion the debate showed that it contained features which would give a great deal of trouble and perhaps do an injustice. Members on both sides of the House had expressed some objection to the first clause, applying to the valuation of real estate. Exception was also taken to the provision that cost of reproduction be taken into account in assessment. In view of the late stage of the session he thought they might allow that to stand over another year in that form, and when the Assessment Commission had reported again next year they would have before them a complete bill dealing with the whole field of assessment, personal property, income, realty, franchises, etc. The House would perhaps be better able, having the whole field of assessment before them, to take a wider view and discuss the question more satisfactorily.

To Stop Scrap-Iron Assessment.

He did not, however, intend to allow the decision with regard to the "scrap-iron" assessment to stand. The feeling in the House and in the country, he thought, was that there should be some legislation to restore the assessment to what it was before that decision was given. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Carscallen) had proposed a solution. The Municipal Committee last year had adopted a resolution favoring the taxation of street railways, etc., as going concerns. They had that view again presented by Mr. Carscallen. He believed that the adoption of the clause he proposed would get over the difficulty created by the judgment of the Court of Appeal, and that was the main difficulty for the moment.

He also proposed to withdraw his bill for the amendment of the municipal

act, by which it was proposed to give certain powers to municipalities to remit the taxation of public corporations. That bill had been introduced in the first instance entirely in the interests of the small corporations. The Government had received petitions from the telephone company operating in Prescott, and from electric light and street railway companies in other places, asking that the assessment bill be not pressed on account of the burden of taxation which it would impose. He had had no idea of interfering with the larger corporations or franchises; they could take care of themselves. He proposed to substitute a new bill amending the assessment act.

The New Clause.

The clause which was intended to meet the scrap-iron assessment difficulty was as follows:—

"Real property belonging to or in the possession of any person or incorporated company, and extending over more than one ward in any city or town, may be assessed together in any one of such wards, at the option of the assessor, or the assessment of the property may be apportioned amongst two or more of such wards in such manner as he may deem convenient, and in either case the property shall be valued as a whole or as an integral part of the whole."

International Bridge Cases.

Continuing, Mr. Ross said provision would be made for such cases as the international bridge over the Niagara River at Queenston, where the assessment had been reduced to a scrap-iron basis. He proposed a clause providing that in the case of any bridge crossing any river forming a boundary between Ontario and any other country, that part in Ontario shall be liable to assessment as an integral part of the whole, and on the basis of the whole.

Objects to Withdrawal.

Mr. Foy (South Toronto) said they had been all looking for some result of the Assessment Commission, and that some fruit would arrive this session from their labors. He said the principle of the Premier's original bill, as recommended by the commission, had not been attacked. The members had simply suggested some verbal amendments. Now they were told it was too late to discuss it or pass it. It was not too late. If they had to stay there some time yet, the public interest would justify the delay. The commissioners themselves had said that the injustice should be removed without delay. He again protested against the withdrawal of the bill.

Besieged by Corporations.

Mr. Whitney said that if anything showed more than another the trend of opinion and the absolute proof that the Government did not possess the confidence of the country, if any doubt now remained it must be at once dispelled. At the request of the Government the Assessment Commissioners had drawn up the bill now withdrawn. That bill had been drawn long ago, and should have been fully considered even before the session opened. It no