

SAVINGS BANKS IN THE SCHOOLS.

Education Department Asked to Authorize Them.

LIABILITY OF TRUSTEES.

Government to Revise the Fees of Magistrates.

Trouble Over Interprovincial Game Regulations Due to Quebec Law —St. Joe Railway Land Grants Amended.

The expansion of the system of savings banks in the public schools was brought to the attention of the Legislature yesterday by Mr. T. H. Preston of South Brant. The system had proved most satisfactory, he said, in inculcating the principles of industry, thrift and economy, and he urged that the Education Department authorize its extension, and relieve the public school trustees of the personal liability they at present carried in case of defalcations. Hon. Mr. Harcourt agreed that the system was a good one, and thought that perhaps the time had arrived when the department might take some action in the matter. Premier Ross informed Mr. Duff that the question of assisting in the establishment of the dead meat industry was being considered by the Government, but no definite plan had yet been decided upon.

To Revise Magistrates' Fees.

Attorney-General Gibson, replying to Mr. Hoyle, said the Government had received memorials from certain Magistrates of the Province asking for a revision of their fees, and it was the intention of the Government to introduce at the present session a bill dealing therewith.

Mr. Hugh Clark was informed by the Attorney-General that the Vermilion gold mine in Denison Township had not been forfeited to the Crown for non-performance of work, nor did the Government regard it as an asset of the Province. By order in Council in March, 1900, the charter was forfeited, on the ground that the company had not conducted active operations during the three years since it was granted, but it was subsequently brought to the attention of the Government that certain material facts were not placed before the Government when the order was passed, and it was rescinded. The Government was aware that the property was now being advertised for sale by order of the court.

Hon. Mr. Latchford told Mr. Murphy that the department was not aware that the Quebec Government had issued licenses for commercial fishing in Lake Temiskaming; in fact in December last the Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries of Quebec had written that no licenses of this nature had been granted, although many applications had been received. A few licenses had been issued for small quantities of net to supply local consumption, and when Mr. Latchford was there last summer sufficient fish to supply the consumption at New Liskeard was not being caught in the gill nets. A few days ago the department had again written to the Quebec authorities, stating that it

had been informed that licenses for trout and pound net fishing had been granted, and expressing the hope that Quebec would resist all applications for commercial fishing. To this no reply had been received yet.

School Savings Banks.

The question of school savings banks was brought up on the motion of Mr. Preston for copies of all correspondence between the Government and any person respecting the establishment of such banks in the schools of the Province. The system, said Mr. Preston, was originally instituted in France in 1834. They were now general all over Europe. In 1885 they were introduced in the United States, and now they were to be found in 797 schools in 85 cities and 21 States, the scholars of which had saved \$2,138,747, of which \$1,616,780 had been withdrawn, leaving a balance of over half a million dollars to the credit of the depositors on January 1, 1903. Five years ago these banks were inaugurated almost simultaneously in Galt and in Brantford, and had since been established in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Toronto. The number of pupils on the public school rolls in Brantford was 2,680, and 921 had deposits in the school savings banks. During the five years \$9,700 had been collected, \$6,220 had been withdrawn, and there was a balance of \$3,479. The depositors at the present time had an average of \$3.75 to their credit. There were savings banks now in thirteen of the Toronto schools, and there was being deposited in these banks an average of \$500 per week. The chief objects were to inculcate industry, thrift and economy, and it had been always impressed upon the depositors that the money deposited should be earned by themselves, and not provided by their parents.

Trustees Personally Liable.

"I want to ventilate this subject," said Mr. Preston, "and also to ask the Department of Education to give these banks some recognition. At the present time they are existing entirely on toleration. The school boards which have established them have done so entirely without legal sanction, and should there occur any defalcations the school trustees are personally liable. I think we should have in some way an endorsement of the system by the Minister of Education, and also that public school boards should be officially authorized to do everywhere what the school boards in a few places in this Province have done."

Hon. Mr. Harcourt said the information asked for would be brought down promptly. He was glad to say that the system of school savings banks had passed the tentative stage. Some years ago objection was raised to it on the ground that it might interfere with the regular work of the school, but now the expressed opinion of leading educationists was all in its favor. "There has been a process of evolution, as my hon. friend has said, but no one talks of taking a step backward, and possibly the time has come when some way will open by which the department can actively assist the school boards in the direction named."

Mr. Whitney thought there could be no two opinions of the value of the school savings banks, and the system should be given more attention than it had been given in the past. The sooner the liability of the school trustees was removed the better, because it would be decidedly unfair to make them responsible for any misfortune that might occur. Individuality and development of character was what people were beginning to understand as the more important part of the education of children, instead of what might be called the machine education that had been the rule in the past.

Mr. Graham endorsed Mr. Whitney's view that the keynote of the idea was the development of the individuality of the child. When his own idea of giving free school books was carried out the

children would have money to put in the banks.

Plumping For Aldermen.

Mr. Murphy's bill to prevent plumping at municipal elections by compelling a voter to vote for more than one candidate was promptly given the six months' hoist on the second reading. Mr. Murphy himself was not enamored of it, having introduced it only at the request of the Ottawa City Council. The Attorney-General said he did not see why voters should be compelled to vote for candidates they did not approve of simply because they were nominated. The result would be to prevent men from voting at all. Mr. Whitney said a man should not be compelled to vote for an undesirable candidate in order to have the privilege of voting for a desirable one.

Mr. Murphy's bill to dispense with the publication in the newspapers of the list of polling places where money by-laws were to be voted upon at the time of the regular municipal elections was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Hoyle (N. Ontario) moved for a return of correspondence respecting the salary of the Ontario County jailer. This was the second time that the county had been placed in an invidious position in this matter. In 1896 it had come up, but an amicable settlement had been reached. Now the county was embroiled again in a lawsuit. Jailer Decker died in 1901, and it was found then that owing to the decreased number of inmates in the jail the duties of the jailer were much lighter and his salary was, therefore, reduced from \$700 to \$600, and \$100 was given to his wife, the matron. Since then, he believed, a further decrease had been made. The inspector was charged with forcing the county into the court, whereby the matron had succeeded in obtaining a judgment for \$54.60.

Mr. Stratton replied that he had no objection to the correspondence being brought down. The subject had been a bone of contention in the county for many years. The remuneration should be reasonable for the work performed. He did not think that \$700 for the jailer and \$150 for the matron was excessive. The correspondence was already prepared and would be placed on the table during the afternoon.

Mr. Murphy moved for correspondence between Ontario and Quebec with reference to arriving at a friendly understanding for mutual hunting and fishing agreements without payment of a license fee.

Mr. Latchford explained that in the past any obstruction to such an arrangement had come from Quebec. No license was exacted from Quebec fishermen who wished to fish in Ontario. But it was different with regard to men who wished to hunt here. Previous to 1895 there was a mutual arrangement, but in that year Quebec introduced an act to do away with this, and in 1897 Ontario did likewise, with a condition that if Quebec were to show a disposition to grant mutual arrangements Ontario would do the same. Since then nothing had been done, and whatever fault there was attached to Quebec. There had often been much difficulty at Aylmer in protecting the game from Quebec poachers during the close season. The correspondence would be brought down if there was any.

Mr. Whitney asked if any similar trouble had occurred on the Manitoba border, and was informed that Manitoba had good hunting grounds of its own, and Manitobans never showed any inclination to hunt in Ontario.

Changes in the St. Joe Bill.

Mr. Latchford introduced a bill to amend the act respecting the land grants to the Thunder Bay, Nipigon & St. Joe Railway. Under the amendment the land grants will be in the district of Thunder Bay instead of Algoma, and may be at a distance of 24 instead of 18 miles from the company's railway. They must not be east of the railway on the south of Lake Nipigon. The time for commencing the construction is extended to April 1, 1905, and the time for construction until 1906. The time for bringing in set-