

tion would be to any suggestion that the works of an author should be common property for school-book purposes. In future no text book would be published in which the Education Department did not hold the copyright of all the articles, except those on which the copyright had expired.

Dr. Nesbitt said that the Government should be able to hand out the plates of any of their text books to anyone they chose. They should be absolutely free.

The Premier—Hear, hear.
The order was discharged.

For Dominion Subsidy.

Mr. Donald Sutherland (South Oxford) moved for a copy of correspondence between the Dominion and Ontario Governments regarding the applications for a subsidy for the Temiskaming Railway. He thought Ontario was entitled to receive as much consideration as any other Province.

The Premier replied that there was no correspondence. He had had two or three interviews with the Dominion Premier and had discussed the matter with his colleagues. No refusal of a subsidy had been received. He proposed very soon to bring up a resolution, of which he had given notice, for a memorial to the Dominion Government, setting forth the reasons why the Province claimed a subsidy.

San Jose Scale Sufferers.

In moving for a return showing payments under the San Jose scale act, Mr. Lee (East Kent) urged that the Government should provide for reasonable compensation for those whose orchards had been destroyed under the act, which had since been repealed. The act was no doubt passed with good intentions, for the purpose of protecting the balance of the country from the scale. The people of the country should therefore be willing to pay compensation to those who had suffered by its operation when it was discovered that, after all, that method of dealing with the pest was wrong and unnecessary. If the Government were not prepared to make a grant for this purpose they should certainly permit suits for damages to be brought against them when it might be discovered just how much the owners of fruit orchards had suffered.

Hon. Mr. Dryden said that at the time the infestation first appeared absolutely nothing was known anywhere as to the best method of dealing with it. The Government had put a drastic measure into operation, which, on investigation by a commission, was found unworkable, owing to the fact that the scale covered such a large area of country. The commission recommended that some system of spraying be tried, and thanks to the efforts of Mr. Fisher, a spraying mixture was discovered that proved very satisfactory in keeping the scale in check. However, under the original act they had been successful in stamping out the scale absolutely in one hundred different spots in the Province. Under the present law they were destroying trees in the nurseries without compensation. As to the suggestion of further compensation, the amount that had been allowed was based on the fact that the orchards would, anyway, have been destroyed by the scale, which was borne out by the fact that orchards whose owners had neglected to adopt the spraying methods suggested by the Government, had since been rendered useless by the pest.

Dr. Jessop also spoke, and the order for a return was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Matheson, the return of payments to employees of the "Soo" works was referred to the Public Accounts Committee, with power to take evidence thereon. The reports and accounts of the Temiskaming Railway were also referred to the same committee. Mr. Matheson was desirous that the latter should be sent to the Railway Committee. The accounts that had been placed before the House were not satisfactory, especially those exceeding by a very large amount the estimate of the cost of rock-cutting and temporary trestlework. It was pointed out by

the Premier and the Attorney-General that the Public Accounts Committee was the proper one to investigate the matter. Mr. Matheson finally acquiesced.

Railway Employees' Votes.

Mr. Powell moved the second reading of his bill to enable railway employees to vote on the day before election.

Hon. Mr. Gibson objected to the bill. If it were passed there would be a demand from many other similarly situated voters. The measure would do more towards creating a tendency to irregularities and frauds than they had been able to accomplish in the opposite direction. If anything could be done to make the railway employees more easily able to vote by reducing the pressure brought to bear upon them to keep them away from the polls he would be glad of it.

Mr. Whitney said they were all well aware that railway employees were purposely restrained from voting. The Attorney-General should try to improve the bill or frame one of his own to overcome the difficulty.

Premier Ross said the objection was that the physical difficulties were large, and the moral and political difficulties still greater. If a proper remedy could be devised it would be generally accepted. If the object could be served it ought to be served.

The bill was declared lost on division.

Inspection of Thrashers.

Mr. A. G. MacKay (North Grey), in moving the second reading of his bill respecting the inspection of steam boilers and steam thrashing engines, said the present act provided that thrashing engines should have spark-arresters, but went no further. The danger to farm buildings might be due to defective machinery, to working them in too close proximity to the buildings, or to careless management. The bill did not deal with the fast of these causes, because he thought it would be a hindrance if the law required that those handling such engines should be certificated engineers. He proposed an annual inspection of the machinery prior to each thrashing season, and if this inspection were spread over several months it would not require many officers; the issuing of certificates, and a requirement that no engine should be worked at less than a certain distance, say 25 feet, from the buildings. As an instance of the damage caused by such machinery, the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company alone in the last fifteen years had paid out \$100,000 in cash for fires due to steam thrashers, and it was estimated that these payments covered a total loss to the farmers of \$250,000.

The bill was sent to the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. F. G. Macdunnid (West Elgin) moved the second reading of his bill to exclude from office as election officers men already proved unworthy, and to provide a more speedy penalty for offences.

Hon. Mr. Gibson thought the first clause with some modifications might be made law. The other provisions presented greater difficulty. The bill should go to the Legal Committee, and he thought they could evolve something better than the measures proposed.

Stationary Engineers' Certificates.

Mr. Graham, in explaining his bill to regulate stationary engineers, said it was an old friend in a new garb. Primarily it recognized the standing of competent engineers qualified to run with safety stationary engines and boilers of twenty-five horsepower and over. It provided for the issue of certificates by a board of examiners, but what had been considered a hardship in previous bills had been removed in the provision that any individual who could show that he had managed boilers and engines for the term of four years should get a certificate without any further examination.

The bill met with general favor in the discussion that followed, which led the Attorney-General to wonder what

had become of the old-time kickers. The measure was referred to a special committee, and will probably become law.

The following public bills were given a second reading:—Mr. M. G. Cameron, to amend the law respecting noxious weeds; Mr. Smyth, respecting voters' lists in unorganized territories; Mr. Auld, to amend the ditches and watercourses act. A number

of private bills were also given second readings. Mr. Powell's bill to confirm a by-law of the Village of Ottawa East and an agreement with the Ottawa East Power Company, and Mr. Hendrie's bill to confirm by-law 291 of the City of Hamilton were given third readings.

The House adjourned at 10.05 p.m.

Public Accounts Committee.

The Public Accounts Committee met yesterday for organization purposes. On the motion of Mr. Auld, seconded by Mr. Matheson, Mr. G. P. Graham was again elected Chairman. The committee then adjourned until Friday at 11 a.m., when, at the request of Mr. Matheson, Auditor C. S. Sproule will be called to give information respecting the land improvement fund.

BEEET SUGAR BOUNTY.

Government Asked to Continue It For Another Three Years.

The Ontario beet sugar bounty will expire with the forthcoming season. With the object of urging upon the Government the advisability of extending the bounty for another two or three years, a deputation representing the industry waited upon the Premier and Hon. J. R. Stratton yesterday. On the deputation were Mr. Hugh Blain, Toronto; Mr. J. W. Garvin and Mr. T. Bradburn of the Peterboro' Company; Mr. D. A. Gordon of the Wallaceburg factory, and Mr. C. A. Hagerdon of the Berlin concern. They argued that the industry was a most favorable one for the farmers, and in the end would be very profitable. The companies had, however, met with unusual initial difficulties. They had, for instance, been unfairly treated by the railroads in regard to rates for both the raw and finished products. In view of these difficulties they thought they deserved further consideration at the hands of the Government.