

"I shall be delighted," came the answer from the Premier promptly, "to inform my followers at the earliest possible moment."

At the suggestion of Mr. Whitney the motion of Premier Ross, providing that Government measures be given precedence on and after Friday, was amended, making it effective on and after Wednesday. In regard to the Easter holidays, the Premier suggested that the House rise on Thursday at 6 o'clock and resume on Tuesday. Mr. Crawford proposed an adjournment until Wednesday. It will be decided later.

Petitions and Bills.

Among the petitions was one by Mr. Hoyle, signed by 350 ratepayers of Mara and Rama townships, county of Ontario, praying that no change be made in the original survey of the Toronto & James Bay Railway in those townships.

The following bills were read a third time:—Respecting the separate schools of Sturgeon Falls; enabling and directing the Royal College of Dental Surgeons to admit John Henry Gorman as a student in the fourth year.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt, in committee on the bill to amend the university act by enabling it to strike from the rolls any graduate guilty of crime, added a clause to provide that Trinity graduates may vote at the next election for the Chancellor and members of the senate. This election takes place before October next, and federation will not be completed until that time, hence the necessity of the amendment. Another clause corrected an entry in a registry office affecting the university lands.

Hon. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill to amend the Division Courts act by providing that a mortgage may be taken in execution of a judgment; that with regard to the jurisdiction of the court the amount due shall not be deemed as ascertained by the signature of the defendant when it is necessary to refer to other evidence or documents; and in other particulars.

Arrears of Taxes.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the municipal taxation bill.

The clause providing that ten per cent. shall be added yearly to arrears of taxes on any parcel of land was considered too arbitrary. Mr. Crawford suggested that "may" should be substituted for "shall." "Ten per cent. is not too high for the land speculator," said Mr. Hoyle, "but it is too high for the workingman." He suggested eight per cent. The Attorney-General said that if the rate were lowered it would lead to a want of punctuality in the payment of taxes, a most dangerous thing. Hon. Mr. Harcourt said it should certainly be above the ordinary rate of interest. "I appeal to the House to lower it," said Mr. St. John. "I would like to see it six per cent." Mr. Gibson expressed surprise that Mr. Whitney, Mr. St. John or Mr. Hoyle had not brought the matter up in the select committee. If it were reduced he believed the country would be disappointed, but at the same time if the House favored it he would accept an amendment gracefully. Mr. A. Hislop thought it would be a mistake to reduce the percentage. It was a fact that land on which there were arrears was largely held by rich speculators. "The number of sales for arrears of land belonging to bona fide residents is infinitesimal," remarked Mr. A. G. MacKay; "it is the speculator who fails to pay." Mr. Rickard's advice was let well enough alone. Dr. Barr said that the municipalities as a rule lost by the tax sales. In this he was supported by Mr. MacKay, who knew for a fact that speculators frequently allowed their lands to be sold for arrears, because by collusion they could buy them back at less than the taxes amounted to.

The clause was allowed to stand for further discussion.

"This is a very important clause," said the Attorney-General, when the section providing that where land is not redeemed within one year from the day of sale the Treasurer before

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1904

MAY AMALGAMATE SCHOOL BOARDS.

Board of Education Act Extended to All Cities and Towns.

RAILWAY TAXES INCREASED

Province to Get \$250,000 Per Annum Extra From Them.

Legislature Discusses Municipal Taxation Bill in Committee of the Whole—Assessment of Liquor Shops and Coal Dealers.

The Minister of Education introduced in the Legislature yesterday a bill to provide for the amalgamation of high school, public school, technical school and library boards into a board of education, as in Toronto, in any city or town, on a majority vote of the municipal Council, at a meeting called specially for the purpose of discussing the question. Since the establishment of the Board of Education in Toronto petitions have been received by the Government from a number of municipalities, asking that the act be extended. The House spent nearly the whole of yesterday in Committee of the Whole on the municipal taxation bill, a large number of clauses being passed. The only serious obstacle met with was the section of the clause providing for a business assessment, in which retail liquor stores and coal dealers are placed on a basis of 50 per cent. The contention was that these businesses should be on the same basis as other retail dealers, namely, 25 per cent. The committee rose before reaching a decision. The Premier did not introduce his supplementary revenue bill, but it is understood that it will provide for a new tax on railways to the extent of \$50 per mile, which will bring \$250,000 per annum extra into the Provincial treasury.

An amusing incident arose just as the House was adjourning. Mr. Hugh Clark, the Conservative member for Centre Bruce, rising in his place, said:—

"As a follower of the Premier on this question, I would like to know when he proposes to introduce his temperance bill?"