

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1908

CLEARING THE WAY FOR SESSION'S END.

Bills Withdrawn by Members of Legislature.

URBAN SCHOOL GRANTS.

Bill Introduced by Minister of Education.

Continuation Classes and Model Schools Provided For—Grant to Urban Schools Will be Graded Ac- cording to Qualifications of Teach- ers—Labor Member Speaks on Im- migration Question.

Yesterday in the Legislature a good illustration was given of the Government's desire to bring the session to a close as quickly as possible. Bill after bill introduced by supporters of the Government was withdrawn at the word of the Premier. Bills to amend the assessment act have already been sent to a special committee, which has yet to be appointed, with a view of possible legislation next session, and a similar fate has befallen a fine crop of bills framed to amend the law with regard to the regulation of automobiles. After the order paper had been cleared considerably the debate on the budget was resumed. Colonel Atkinson twitted the Government on the fact that their boasted power policy had not produced a single practical result, and Mr. Torrance (North Perth) conducted a typical defence of the Government. Mr. Studholme took the floor, and held it during the night session for over two hours. He urged the Government to "do" something with the unemployed problem. The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. A. E. Donovan.

Mr. May (Ottawa) had an inquiry of the Ministry to make regarding Thomas Tutt, Charles Simpson, W. G. Cooper and W. H. Clark, asking among other questions if any of them had been in the employ of the Government as detectives.

Hon. Mr. Hanna stated that no public interest would be served by answering such a question. Therefore he asked that the question be withdrawn, which was done.

Continuation Classes.

Dr. Pyne introduced three bills to amend the public schools, Department of Education act and the act respecting separate school fifth classes and continuation school.

An explanation of the amendments supplied by the department states that they provide for the reorganization of continuation classes. In future there will be continuation schools and fifth classes, a distinction being drawn be-

tween two grades of what were hitherto termed indiscriminately continuation classes. The continuation school (a name applied in England, Germany and elsewhere to work of similar character) will impart instruction in advance of and inclusive of that prescribed for the fifth class of the public school, and may employ one, two or three teachers. The continuation schools will be, to all intents and purposes, rural high schools, and under the new classification already number over 100. The object of the Government is to develop these schools, so that before long there will be one in every township in the Province. The other so-called continuation classes, exceeding 300 in number, have been really doing fifth class work. These will now be termed fifth classes, and financial inducements to extend and improve their courses will, it is hoped, cause them to multiply rapidly. The design is to secure to the rural parts and to the small urban centres better facilities for secondary education. With the object of supplying teachers having the special qualification in elementary agriculture and horticulture and in workshop training needed in rural schools and in small industrial centres, courses will be provided at the Ontario Agricultural College supplementary to the Normal School training. Each course will be one of three months, and the travelling expenses and board of the candidates will be paid.

Control of Model Schools.

The amendments also give the Minister of Education power to establish model schools, the intention being to assume control and financial support of such model schools as are to be retained, these being situated in such parts of the Province as require, for financial reasons, teachers with the new third-class certificates, which will take the place of the present district certificates, but of a higher grade. The Model School examinations will, therefore, in future be conducted by the department as are the Normal School examinations, and all certificates of qualification will hereafter be issued by the Minister.

Grant for Urban Schools.

Section 23 of the education act is amended by the addition of a clause stating: "To apportion all sums of money voted by the Legislative Assembly as a special grant for urban public and separate schools among the several cities, towns and incorporated villages, on the basis of the grade of the teachers' certificates and the length of their successful experience,

and to pay the money so apportioned at the same time and in the same manner as the sums paid under subsections one and two immediately preceding."

The sub-sections last mentioned provide for the manner of the distribution of the special grant in aid of rural public and separate schools.

Mr. Craig moved the second reading of his bill to amend the high schools act. He said that as the act now stood men who held positions in the pay of municipalities could not be high school trustees. He thought such disqualifications were absurd, but when Hon. Dr. Pyne said that such a proposal would open the door too wide, and Mr. Craig withdrew it.

Sent to Committee.

Mr. J. P. Downey, in moving the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act, explained that its purpose was to enable cities to elect a Board of Control without applying for special legislation in each instance.

Hon. W. J. Hanna said that the Government had no objection to the bill, which was read a second time, going to the Municipal Committee.

Hon. A. G. MacKay thought that care should be taken to provide that a vote of the ratepayers should be taken before any change was made in the method of a city's government.

The Acts Operate.

Mr. Hoyle's bill to repeal the clause in the game and fisheries act prohibiting the use of automatic guns came up for its second reading, but was withdrawn at the request of the Premier.

The following bills received second reading:—To amend the act respecting the office of Sheriff—Mr. McElroy. To amend the act to prevent fraud in the sale of milk—Mr. McNaught. Mr. J. P. Downey withdrew his bill providing that persons in arrear in regard to the payment of their taxes should not be eligible for election on municipal, town or city Councils.

Mr. Sutherland, in moving the second reading of his bill to regulate the speed and operation of motor vehicles, pointed out that the horses of On-

tario were valued at \$80,000,000, and their owners deserved some consideration.

The bill was referred to a special committee, which will be appointed tomorrow, to deal with motor legislation, as was Mr. Bowman's bill.

Budget Debate Resumed.

The Provincial Treasurer moved that the House should go into Committee of Supply, and the debate on the budget was resumed by Colonel Atkinson (North Norfolk), who said that to the late Government belonged the credit of the building up of the Sault Ste. Marie industries, which were even yet only in their infancy. He foretold that the day would come when not only steel rails would be rolled at the "Soo," but armor plates for the cruisers of the navy of Canada, which Canada would possess in twenty-five years. With regard to educational matters Colonel Atkinson drew a very unfavorable comparison between the present and former methods. The "power as cheap as air" policy of the Government had, he thought, along with many other pledges, passed into the realms of fairy stories and myths. Apparently three years' work and the expenditure of many thousands of dollars had not produced a single practical result. As a matter of fact, so far as receiving cheap power was concerned, the people of Ontario were no better off than they were three years ago. It was regrettable that the Government had allowed a chance to obtain control of a plant by which power could be given to the people to slip by. It was evident from Major St. Aubyn's letter that he had been prepared to make an offer to the Government, but had not been allowed to do so. Major St. Aubyn's letter was that of a disappointed man.

Mr. J. Torrance (North Perth) claimed that there had been no effective criticism of the Provincial Treasurer's financial statement. He claimed that the increased expenditure for normal schools was virtually for the benefit of the public schools.

After dinner Mr. Torrance, continuing his address, made a plea for technical education. In regard to immigration he said that if Ontario native population was to continue moving westward, and continental Europe sent its slum population to the Province, unfortunate results must follow. Either those immigrants must be assimilated and raised or the general tone of the population would deteriorate.

The Views of Labor.

Mr. Studholme (Hamilton) congratulated all the speakers. At least they had done well from the standpoint of Toryism and Gritism, if in no other way. He advocated that only day labor should be employed in connection with Government contracts, public ownership of all franchises, stricter regulation of child labor, and prohibition of prison labor coming into competition with free labor. He also informed the House that it was the intention of the Labor party to run four candidates in Toronto at the forthcoming election. Mr. Studholme stated that emigration societies in England were sending their representatives through the country saying what wonderful opportunities there were in Canada. They even said that a man could become independent in five years. He would like to see the man who could do it. He challenged the statement that the Salvation Army were only bringing out farm laborers, quoting interviews with immigrants which had appeared in the press. He knew of men who had been brought out by the Army in the last month to work on railway construction in British Columbia. Why could they not send some of the unemployed thousands of Ontario there instead of bringing out more people to swell the flood of misery? He would like to know how it was that Dr. Sheard, who thought a label on a loaf unhealthy, permitted dirty, insanitary and overcrowded shacks to exist in the city of Toronto. He thought that the Government might have used some of the surplus in establishing public works and giving employment to some of the unemployed.

"What's the matter with this brainy Government?" asked Mr. Studholme, and a voice promptly called attention to the fact that the Hon. A. J. Matheson was the only remaining occupant of the seats to the right of the Speaker, the Provincial Treasurer and Minister of Public Works and a number of the supporters of the Government having lined up behind Mr. Studholme.

Mr. McDougal has asked for a return showing the exact financial position of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway.