

by the Legislature for elementary schools is provided for, as has been pointed out, by votes to three different classes of schools—urban schools, rural schools in counties, and rural schools in districts—and funds cannot be transferred from one class to another for the purposes of levelling up, even when the proportion of the number of public to separate schools is found not to be constant in all three classes. Second, while the total sum of money voted for elementary education is apportioned to public and separate schools on the basis of average attendance, the distribution of these sums to individual schools is determined by statute and by regulations which take into account, not average attendance, but other factors, such as salaries paid to teachers, value of equipment, character of the accommodations, grading of teachers' professional certificates, length of successful experience, and the amount of municipal or school assessment.

Grants Per Pupil Equal.

"The grant per pupil calculated on the basis of the total average attendance of pupils enrolled in either the urban or the rural public schools is exactly the same as the grant per pupil on the total average attendance of pupils enrolled in the corresponding class of separate schools, but, because there may be differences both in the number of pupils assigned to individual teachers and in the factors which determine the grants to be paid to the schools, the grant per school may differ widely in either class of schools. But if one separate school has received more money than it appears to be entitled to as compared with a public school in the same locality, it has received this money at the expense of some other separate school, and not of the neighboring public school. Not one cent of money which belongs to the public schools has been taken away from them for the purpose of paying higher grants to separate schools, and not one cent of money has been given to separate schools over and above what the law guarantees to them.

May Change Law.

"The statutes and regulations governing the distribution of grants among the schools were framed by the former Governments with the sole aim of bettering educational conditions. The largest portion of the grant has been distributed on the basis of salaries paid, because experience has shown that well-paid and well-trained teachers, with inducements to remain in the continuous service of one school, form the chief factor in rural school improvement. But as no scheme of distribution can be absolutely perfect, it is doubtless true that improvements may be made in the method of distribution, with a view, on the one hand, to lessening the disparity between the grants paid to public and separate schools in the same communities, and, on the other, to a more equitable division among the separate schools themselves. The question will receive careful consideration by the Government, and, if it is thought advisable, any necessary legislation will be introduced.

"But it must be understood that no such change can possibly be made in the Provincial law which will affect the principles of division laid down in the Constitution."

Shall Councillors Sell Gravel?

There was a good deal of discussion in the Legislature yesterday on the bill introduced by John Joynt, North Huron, to permit a member of a municipal council who owned a gravel pit to sell road material to the municipality. The bill was finally passed through second reading and sent on to committee, but several suggestions were made that

may find their way into the measure before it comes back to the House. One was that the change involved would affect only township councils. Another was that the amount of material to be purchased for any one year would not exceed the value of \$100. Still another suggestion was that the member of the council concerned should not be permitted to vote on the proposal to purchase material.

CURRY DEFENDS TEMPERANCE ACT

UPHOLDS RANEY ON ENFORCEMENT

A vigorous defense of the Ontario Temperance Act and the Government record in dealing with the race-track betting problem was made by J. Walter Curry in a lengthy speech he made yesterday afternoon and last night during the Budget debate in the Legislature. Mr. Curry said criticisms had been made against the enforcement of the act which were intended to throw discredit upon the act as far as possible.

The Attorney-General, he said, had used every effort to enforce the act fully and completely according to its terms. In the speech of T. H. Lennox, said Mr. Curry, there had been no condemnation of those engaged in breaking the law.

During his speech, in the evening, Mr. Curry went over the efforts made by the Attorney-General in the law courts to curb betting in Ontario, and said that the courts had ruled against him. When an appeal had been sought to the Supreme Court of Canada, the Registrar and one of the Judges of the Supreme Court had declared there was no appeal to the Supreme Court, because this was not a final judgment.

If the Attorney-General had carried the case to the Privy Council, went on Mr. Curry, he would have had nothing but abuse for laying appeal after appeal, spending the money of the Province, when it would have been said he ought to have known the case could not be won.

Mr. Curry in his speech touched on relations between Capital and Labor, the agricultural development of the Province, and Hydro affairs.

Take Mortgage on Hydro.

He thought, concerning the latter, that it might be worth while considering whether the Government ought not to take a mortgage to secure itself for all the money advanced and all the guarantees entered into in respect to Hydro light, heat and power development, and let the municipalities, under the control of the Government, work out the matter for themselves.

Touching on education, Mr. Curry said he thought there ought to be religious instruction in the schools, carried on in a way that would not infringe on the beliefs of anyone.

He hoped the Government would be able to let Bishop Fallon know that he would be entitled to what the law would say he should receive, and no more.

He thought better relations would exist between Ontario and Quebec if Ontario people understood French as Quebec people understood English. He concluded with an eloquent defense of his own position in the Legislature, and said that he did not subscribe to the belief that a man owed his vote first to his party.

Encourages Irreligious.

Resuming the Budget debate yesterday afternoon, Mr. Curry referred to expressions such as the "Christianizing proclivities of the Attorney-General," which had been used in the debate. He thought that such expressions did not tend to foster, in the minds of the unthinking, proper respect for the religion which the members professed. Coming to criticisms that had been made against the Ontario Temperance Act, he said they had been such as to throw discredit as far as possible upon the act.

After reviewing the history of temperance legislation in the Province to the present time, Mr. Curry said the Attorney-General had used every endeavor to enforce the act fully and completely according to its terms.