

elected by the people and controlled by the people. To go back to the old system of a Chief Superintendent would be to act contrary to all the tendencies of democratic legislation.

2. We have extended the control of Parliament over all school legislation. The old Council of Public Instruction had the right to make regulations under the Statute in regard to school programmes, text-books, hours of study, religious instruction, the duties of teachers, pupils, etc., which were of the utmost importance, and, in many cases, as far reaching as an Act of Parliament. These regulations had gone on accumulating until in 1834 they covered 135 pages. Against them there was no appeal to Parliament; and there was no means of altering them except with the consent of the Council that framed them. By the Public Schools Act of 1885 the regulations of the Education Department are made subject to the approval of the people's representatives to the same extent as any bill submitted to the House for its consideration. Last session they were revised and consolidated until they now occupy only 64 pages—one very gratifying result of this consolidation being that it has reduced the departmental correspondence in regard to the interpretation of the school law more than one-half.

3. We have amended the School law in the following particulars :

(1) Before 1879, school trustees determined, without reference to the people, how much money should be expended for the erection of a new school-house or the enlargement of a school site; now there can be no expenditure of money for either of such purposes without first obtaining the consent of the ratepayers concerned at a public meeting called for considering the question.

(2) Formerly trustees levied and collected all taxes for school purposes at a great expense to the ratepayers; now they are able to employ the ordinary municipal machinery for this purpose. The saving in this way alone for the collection of the sum of \$2,685,621 paid for the support of schools by local taxation, even allowing two per cent. for collection, would amount to \$52,000 per annum, or \$728,000 in fourteen years.

(3) We have provided for a proper system of auditing school accounts, thus giving greater security against improper expenditure.

(4) We have simplified the machinery for the establishment of schools in the remote districts, and extended the benefits of a liberal education to the pioneer settlers of Muskoka and Algoma.

(5) We have given the right to trustees in cities, towns, and incorporated villages to apply the ballot to school elections, and to employ for this purpose the officers of the municipality engaged in conducting the municipal elections. By this means much money is saved and a fuller expression of public opinion obtained.

(6) We have provided that school debentures shall be issued by the municipality, and not by the school section, as formerly, so that school trustees are able to borrow money at a lower rate of interest, and very often on much better terms as to premium, etc.