

THE TORONTO WORLD

NO. 43 YONGE-STREET, TORONTO.

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BUILDING SOCIETY PRATTS

APPOINTMENT OF AN INSPECTOR FAVORED BY LEGISLATORS

Mr. McKay's Bill on the subject to be considered by a select committee—Right between Public and Separate Schools—A Large Increase of Crime Last Year—Inspector's Report.

By great persistence Mr. McKay of Oxford yesterday got his bill for the appointment of a Provincial Inspector of building societies through the second reading, in face of the opposition of the Cabinet Ministers and a number of the members. In addition he persuaded the House to appoint a select committee to consider the bill, and to report thereon in a week. Mr. McKay explained that, while he believed the existing societies were doing business on a sound basis, the very success with which they were attended would tend to make objectionable to the business without any great knowledge of the work, and for this reason he claimed it was desirable in the interests of the public that the appointment of an inspector should be made.

Mr. Stratton objected to the bill, arguing that if an exhaustive inspection of all building societies were intended, a whole army of officials would be required. The powers which were desired to be conferred on the inspector were extraordinary; no business man to examine his books and say whether the concern was solvent or not. The bill clause by clause he argued that there was not one but that was open to serious objection. It provided that the inspector should have full power to take over and carry on the business of the societies should the need call for it. He would like to see the bill withdrawn, and yet the inspector might be mistaken in his conclusion as to insolvency. He was in favor of Government inspection to a certain extent, but it was a most serious question, and it was suggested that the bill should be brought into the House at a later date. Mr. Howland also opposed the bill.

Sir Oliver's opinion. Sir Oliver Mowat said the subject was a most important one, and he had no doubt many societies would welcome the appointment of an inspector, but there were provisions in the bill which were objectionable, and he hoped that, having called the attention of the House to the subject, Mr. McKay would withdraw his measure. Before such a law was enacted, he urged that it was necessary the societies should have an opportunity of expressing their views. Mr. McKay, however, pressed his bill, claiming that the bill was not intended to give any opportunity of stating their case before the select committee, which, he proposed, should be appointed to consider the bill.

Mr. McKay said that he was not sufficient informed on the subject at the present time to pass such a bill. He suggested that the House should allow the bill to be read a second time on the understanding that it went no further.

Mr. McKay said it was not his intention that the bill should be passed this session. It was his idea that if it were sent to the Legislature, it would be the information which Mr. Hardy said they had not got to be obtained.

Mr. Gibson's opinion. The bill was introduced by Mr. McKay and a select committee was appointed to consider it. The Provincial Secretary then spoke in support of the bill, and in short and emphatic terms he said that a bill should become law, and he did not think there was any kind of reason for a reference of the bill to a committee.

Two bills were read a third time, namely: Respecting an agreement between the city of Stratford and the Grand Trunk Railway Co. and the Grand Trunk Railway Co. to authorize the corporation of the city of Stratford to sell a portion of Mount Hope Cemetery.

Some Important Resolutions. Mr. Marter's bill for the appointment of a provincial arbitrator for municipal disputes. Mr. Gray's bill to amend the act respecting the equalization of assessment, and Mr. Evers' bill for a summary remedy of boilers; and Mr. Evers' bill, providing for the equalization of assessment, and Mr. Gray's bill to amend the act respecting the equalization of assessment.

These bills also passed the second reading: Respecting certain county drainage works; Mr. Watney's bill to amend the act respecting the equalization of assessment; Mr. Ferguson's bill to amend the Municipal Act; Mr. German's bill to amend the Assessment Act; Mr. Biggar's bill to amend the act respecting the establishment of Houses of Refuge; Mr. O'Shea's bill to amend the act respecting the equalization of assessment.

The Toronto City Bill was also read a second time on the motion of Mr. Howland, and well as the bill for the purpose of the equalization of assessment.

A number of private bills were passed through the second reading. Mr. O'Shea introduced a bill for the purpose of amending the act respecting the equalization of assessment, enabling them to borrow money on real and personal property.

Asked by Mr. St. John whether it was the intention of the Government to take any steps towards amending the act respecting the equalization of assessment, Mr. O'Shea replied that the Government were constantly taking some steps in that direction. It was his hope that the bill would be passed by the Government at present to appoint a commission for that purpose.

Publics Separate Schools. In the Private Bills Committee yesterday morning there was a fight over the division of certain school taxes in the town of Cornwall between public and separate schools. These taxes are collectable on two cotton mills and another manufacturing establishment. According to the statute law of the province these would, in the ordinary course, be divided in proportion to the stock held in these three industries, Protestants and Catholics. Some time since, however, in accordance with an arrangement made to have been arrived at by the parties interested, the Town Council passed a by-law dividing the school taxes on the mills between the two systems on the basis of 70 per cent. to the public, and 30 to the separate schools, which is the assessment of the town stands between the two parties. The Town Council and the Separate School Board applied to the Private Bills Committee to ratify this compromise in the form of a special act prepared for that purpose.

Both sides were well represented and the contest was keen. Chairman Gibson, after hearing the argument, asked even if an agreement was proved he doubted if the committee would be at liberty to grant the request. He said that if there were any other bill making different school laws for every municipality in the province, something ought to be done. He said that he would divide the 8 to 27 to the committee decided to throw out the bill.

The 27th annual report upon the Common Jails, Prisons and Reformatories, which was distributed yesterday, shows that in 1894 there was an increase of 381 commitments as compared with 404 in 1893. Of this increase a little over half arose from commitments on a weekly basis, 289, trespass 136 and burglary 88.

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Tells Sir Charles That He Ought to Go to Sleep—The Hon. Mr. Howland Resigning for Re-appointing.

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