

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS IN
THE LEGISLATURE OF
ONTARIO

For the information of our readers who may not have had an opportunity to see accounts of the proceedings in Parliament and for future reference we present a summary of events.

January 20 h, 1884.

House met. No mention of educational affairs in the Speech from the Throne.

February 1st.

Mr. Brereton—Order of the House for a Return:—1. Showing the number of teachers in each High School and Collegiate Institute in the Province, for the years 1881, 1882, 1883; 2. The salaries paid to each teacher; 3. The Government grant to each School and Institute.

February 8th.

SCHOOL FUNDS AND GRANTS.

Mr. Wood moved for a Return showing the assessed value of property in each school section for the year 1883; the amount raised in each section for ordinary school purposes, with the rate on the dollar for the same year; the amounts received by each section from the Government grant for the same year; the length of time in said year the schools in each section were kept open; the class of certificates held by the teacher in each section; and, so far as practicable, the area of acres in each section, or generally, about the number of acres in each section.

Mr. G. W. Ross said that the information sought for by the hon. gentleman was not in the Education Department. The only way in which he could get the details required in regard to the school sections would be by sending a circular to each of the school inspectors, asking them to supply the information, and then to compile the returns in the Education Office. He would not be able to supply the Returns in any case for two or three weeks.

February 11th.

Mr Hardy laid on the table of the House the report of the Minister of Education for 1883.

February 12th.

SUPERANNUATION OF TEACHERS.

Mr. Broder enquired whether it is proposed to make any change in the provisions of the law respecting the superannuation of

teachers, with a view to placing it on a more satisfactory basis, as promised by the late Minister of Education.

Mr. G. W. Ross said it was the intention of the Government during the recess to consider the advisability of making a change in the law referred to, with the view, if possible, to have it on a more satisfactory basis.

Mr. Harcourt—On Thursday next—Enquiry: Whether it is intended to introduce the kindergarten in connection with the Model Schools in Toronto and Ottawa, and if so, when?

February 13th.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Mr Gibson (Hamilton) moved for a return showing what, if any, plans of school buildings of various kinds have ever been prepared by the direction of the Education Department for adoption by School Boards; and also showing how far, if at all, any systems of lighting, heating, ventilating, and draining have been approved of by the Department or recommended for general adoption. He said that great good might be done by the Department of Education taking this matter into consideration, and devising what might be regarded as model plans for general adoption throughout the country. He suggested that the architects be invited to send in plans in competition for schools, with a special reference to lighting, heating, drainage, and ventilating. These plans should be examined by a committee, and the best selected. It would then be an easy matter to have lithographic copies of plans kept in the Department for transmission to school boards intending to put up new schools. This plan would have the advantage of getting our schools built according to a principle, instead of on the present hap-hazard system. Something of the kind was needed, because very little attention was paid to the subject of school architecture, neither was the accommodation given the pupils sufficient from a sanitary point of view.

Mr. G. W. Ross said for some years more or less attention had been paid by the department to the subject, and works on school architecture had been distributed among the inspectors. He was willing to admit, however, that much more could be done. He was considering whether the teachers should not be instructed in school hygiene, and steps were being taken to have a text-book on the subject prepared. The suggestion of the hon. member would receive his fullest consideration.

The motion passed.