Hope to incur liabilities in connection with the construction of the water-works.

Mr Meredith—To amend the Act incorporating the London, Huron, and Bruce Railway.

Hon Mr Crooks—To authorize the church-wardens of St James Church to issue debentures.

Also—To amend the Water-Works Act of the city of Toronto.

Also—to incorporate the Homœopathic College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

Mr Meredith—To authorize the Corporation of the city of Toronto to construct and operate gas works in the city or adjoining municipalities.

Mr Clarke (Wellington)—Relating to the incorporation of the village of Clifford.

Mr Williams (Hamilton)—To amend the Act incorporating the Hamilton and North Western Railway Company.

Also—To arrange the debt of the Hamilton and Lake Erie Railway company, and more clearly to define the leasing powers thereof.

Mr Hodgins—To incorporate the London and Erie Railway company.

Mr McLeod—To annex the several Townships of Ashfield, Colborne, and Wawanosh to the South Riding of Huron for registration purposes.

Mr Bishop to confirm the incorporation of the village of Wingham.

Mr Wood—To authorise the Law Society to admit Arthur O'Leary to the practice of the law.

Also—To authorize the courts of Queen's Bench, common pleas, and chancery, to admit Dominie Slade to practice as attorney and solicitor.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

Mr Clarke (Wellington) moved that the Bill with regard to Municipal Institutions be referred to a Select committee, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Hon Messrs Crooks and Fraser; Messrs McLeod, Tooley, Hardy, Springer, Wood, Bishop, Ardagh, Striker, Finlayson, Calvin, and Clarke (Wellington). Carried.

ORANGE BILLS.

Hon Mr Fraser brought down the correspondence and papers in connection with the Orange Incorporation Bills.

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

Hon Mr Crooks moved the house into committee of the whole on the bill to amend the Assessment Act, Mr Hodgins in the chair.

Mr Crooks moved the adoption of the first clause, and explained that its introduction was intended to make clear the construction placed on the analogous clauses in the old Act, with regard to property owned out of the Provinces.

Mr M C Cameron was not aware that the clause had hitherto been misconstructed. He thought the hon. gentleman had discovered a difficulty that had never existed.

The first clause was adopted.

The second clause was adopted without discussion.

On motion for the adoption of the third clause,

Mr Rykert moved, as an amendment that it should be expunged.

The amendment was lost on a division.

With regard to the fourth clause.

Mr Crooks moved its adoption with the insertion of the following words, "Before owner unknown," in the 39th line.

The motion was carried.

The fifth clause was carried without amendment

Mr Crooks, in moving the adoption of the sixth clause stated that the object of this clause was to provide for the assessment of persons who held a lucrative appointment in one Municipality while they resided in another.

Mr Tooley called attention to a case in his county in which the Registrar and Treasurer of the county lived outside the limits of London, while their office was within the limits of the city. The city had no control over the salaries of these gentlemen. They performed duties on behalf of the county, and their incomes should not be assessable by the city. He considered the clause should be amended by the addition of words. "This clause shall not apply to Municipal officers."

Mr Crocks said presently he had no objection to the amendment.

Mr Finlayson suggested that the words County Municipal officers should be employed.

The clause, with the last amendment, was carried.

Mr Crooks next moved the adoption of the seventh clause.

Mr McLeod objected to the amendment proposed with regard to tax land sales. The law as it then stood has been found to work very well.

Mr Ardagh was of the same opinion.

Mr Pardee pointed out that a desirable feature with regard to these sales was that they could be conducted with uniformity, and it was considered best, and in the interest of the parties, that the sales should be conducted by county officers. Larger audiences would by this means be obtained, and a better price would be obtained for the land.

Messrs Gow, Finlayson, and Rykert were in favour of the law as it stands.

Mr Pardee said he knew some sales had been conducted by the county officers according to the requirements of the law as it was prior to the amendments in 1868 or 1869. Communications had been received as to the advisability of changing the law, and he considered the simplest way would be to allow the sales to be conducted by the county officers.

Mr M C Cameron said the effect of the clause would be to legalize the sales which the Commissioner of Crown Lands had shown had taken place. If it were in the interest of the public that those sales should be legalized, a Bill should be introduced for that purpose; but he objected to legalizing them by this means. He agreed that it was desirable that there should be uniformity in the manner of conducting the sales, and said it was generally supposed that it would be to the interest of the public for the sales to be conducted by the county officers.

Mr Hardy pointed out that while the passage of the other clause under consideration would legalize the illegal sales which were at present legal.

Mr Mowat said the objections which had been just raised showed these clauses could not be passed as they stood in the Bill.

Mr Wood (Victoria) was in favour of the law remaining as it stood, and thought that if illegal sales had been made an Act should be passed to make them legal.

Mr Bethune was of opinion that some amendment to the law was necessary, and said it was true a great many persons did not think there had been any change in the law.

Mr Cameron said that because some lawyers had not discovered the flaw, that was no reason why it should be allowed to stand.

Hon Mr Crooks then moved that the seventh and eight clauses be withdrawn.

Mr Currie approved of the withdrawal of the clauses, which were accordingly struck out.

The 9th clause was passed with a verbal amendment.

On the 10th clause.

Mr Crooks proposed an amendment, which he said was intended to make one uniform day for returns of assessment rolls. At present, the actual day would depend upon a by-law of the corporation, limited by the 49th section of the Act to some day after the first of February. He proposed to make the uniform days for commencing and ending to be in future the 1st February and the 30th of April, respectively.

Mr Ardagh regretted that the Assessment Act had been touched at all, but when it had been done, he was sorry that some better mode of accessment had not been proposed than that at present existing. Some check should be laid upon assessors.

Mr Cameron said he was not aware of anything which the proposed amendment would remedy. There was no real necessity for this amendment, and he contended that it was only embarrassing legislation to insert it.

Hon Mr Crooks said that under the present law the fourteen days, during which it was legal for an appeal to be lodged against an assessment in the Court of Revision might be mistaken by the person aggrieved, as the day from which these fourteen days began to be dated were fixed by by-law of the municipality. According to this Bill as amended, it would be known to all that an appeal must be lodged fourteen days after the 30th April. He pointed out that all the subsequent clauses were in harmony with this.

Mr Finlayson pointed out that owing to the date at which County Councils were organized, it would be too early for them to fix the day of beginning on the 1st of February.

Hon Mr Crooks said he would alter the date to the 15th of February.

Mr Clarke (Norfolk) thought ample time should be given to the Assessor to perform his duties. He, however, asserted that there was very wide dissatisfaction with the present law throughout the Province.

Mr. Scott suggested that the winter was a bad season for making assessments in country places, and urged that they should be fixed to take place in the summer time.

Mr McManus thought townships should themselves have the power to fix the days upon which the assessment should begin.

Mr Wood said that two sessions ago he introduced a Bill to change the time of assessment, but withdrew it on a promise by the Government to deal with the whole matter during the succeeding Session. Next Session he introduced a similar Bill. Next was the ground for a very animated discussion, and resulted in a very fair expression of the House upon the whole subject. He again withdrew the Bill on the understanding that this Session there was to be a general Act. Although he approved of the Bill before the House, he failed to see in it anything like a general amendment. It did not grasp the great objection which the people have against the Assessment Act. What was wanted was a measure which would assess all property at its proper value, whereas at present the assessments were, if not dishonestly made, at least most unfair; and the law ought to be such as would compel assessors and courts of revision to do their duties. The present system was wrong. He also took exception to the character of the exemptions. He did not see why a merchant going to Europe and purchasing $100,000 worth of goods for which he paid cash, should, after he had brought them home and put them in his warehouse, be assessed therefore on a different principle from the man who bought the same amount of goods upon credit. The complaint throughout the country was that Reform Councils assessed Conservatives unfairly, and *vice versa*. This was a scandal, and ought to be put a stop to at once. The Government, he thought, should make some general proposition of amendment, so as to invite the House to take into consideration the different amendments which where required.

After a few remarks from Mr. Prince, the clause was carried as amended.

The 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th clauses were passed with verbal amendments, assimilating them to the 10th clause as amended.

On the 18th clause,

Hon Mr Currie suggested that appeal from assessments might be made to the Superior Courts in certain cases.

Hon Mr Crooks promised to consider the matter before the third reading.

The other clauses of the Bill were adopted.

On the motion to adopt the preamble of the Bill,

Mr Sidculair suggested the striking out of clause 169 in the original Act.

Mr Bethune also suggested that charges against assessors should be tried by a superior Court Judge without a jury, which he thought would act as such terror over them as to prevent scandals about tampering with assessment rolls.

After a few remarks from Messrs. McManus, McLeod, and Bishop, the preamble was adopted. The bill with amendments was then reported, and its reception fixed for to-morrow.

PRINTING OF PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr Cameron said he had heard that the Law Clerk had been instructed not to allow any private Bills of a character which might come under the General Bill to go to the printers. He wished to know if this were correct—if any officer of the Government had assumed to direct an officer of this House to do that which might be against the wishes of the house. He was not aware that any member of the Government had a right to direct an officer of the House to do anything. If the House passed a Bill through it first reading, by the rules of the House that Bill should be printed and go to the Committee on Private Bills; and no gentleman connected with the Government had a right to give any other direction without the assent of the House.

Hon Mr Mowat said he would enquire into the matter.

THE ESTIMATES.

Mr Cameron said the estimates had been promised yesterday, and they were not yet brought down.

Hon Mr Crooks said they had been in print, but, on account of some alterations, they had to be reprinted.

THE MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Mr Rykert reminded the Government that they had promised to bring down the paper connected with the amended Municipal Loan Fund Scheme, and had not yet done so.

Hon Mr Mowat said some of the papers were already printed, and there was further matter in the printer's hands. They might bring those which were already prepared.

The House then took recess, it being six o'clock.

After recess,

ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

Mr Fraser moved the House into Committee of the whole on the Bill to amend the Act establishing Municipal Institution in the Districts of Parry Sound, Muskoka, Nipissing and Thunder Bay, Mr Bethune in the chair.

The first clause was carried.

On the second clause,

Mr Cameron pointed out that some of the stipendiary magistrates were not professional men, and that no material benefit would result.

Hon Mr Fraser said that certainly was the case, but he was satisfied the stipendiary magistrates would be quite competent to perform the duties.

The clause was adopted.

The third and fourth clauses were passed without amendment, and the seventh clause was adopted with slight verbal amendments.

Clauses 8, 9, and 10 were passed without amendment.

Hon Mr Fraser moved that the following clause should be added to the Bill: "From and after the passing of this Act, the townships of McTaish and Sibley and all other parts of the municipality of Shuniah lying to the south and east of those townships shall cease to form a part of that municipality, and shall be subject to the provisions of the Act in the recital hereof mentioned, as well as to this Act."

Mr Cameron considered this amendment should form the subject of a separate Bill. Some persons living in that district in question, might object to such a course, and be questioned very much whether honourable gentlemen had the power to legislate in this way.

Mr Oliver was opposed to the cutting up of the municipalities in this manner, and trusted the hon. gentleman would modify the clause. He trusted that if the clause were retained, the same power would be given to every portion of the municipality.

Hon Mr Fraser said the complaint of hon friend was that the measure did not go far enough, and that the same power would be given to the whole municipality. He trusted they would see fit to allow the clause to pass.

Mr Clarke (Norfolk) stated that the municipality of Shuniah had grown recently to about 300 souls, and referred to the letter which recently appeared in THE GLOBE from Mr Peter McKellar, treating of the whole Thunder Bay District, which he said gave all the information it was possible to have. The hon. member for Oxford had stated the fact correctly when he stated that only four of the Councillors resided in the Landing. He was opposed to the proposition of the Government, which, coming as it did, was unfair and unjust.

Mr. Prince thought the greater portion of the members who spoke upon the subject scarcely knew where the municipality of Shuniah was. He took for granted that the Bill was simply for the purpose of establishing municipal institutions in this particular district.

Mr Clarke (Norfolk) inquired whether this was the time to move an amendment.

The Chairman said the proper time was upon the reception of the report of the Committee.

The committee rose and reported the Bill as amended. The report was adopted.

PUBLIC AND HIGH SCHOOLS BILL.

Hon Mr Mowat rose to move the second reading of the Public and High Schools Bill. He premised by saying that he had left it over for some time in order to give full opportunity to hon. members to communicate with their constituents, and those generally who were interested in the measure. He desired to say that in preparing this Bill, he had felt deeply the importance of doing whatever was possible to advance and perfect our educational system. There was no subject which could engage the attention of the House which was of greater importance, affecting, as it did, the people in every sense. It was important when one considered the great difference between an educated and an uneducated people. All history showed that the larger the amount of education and intelligence among the people, they advance the more rapidly in the acquirement of wealth and power, and everything that marked the character of a civilized nation. It had been estimated that the difference between the productive power of an educated and an uneducated man was equal to one-fourth; but if the whole country was looked at, and the results of the labour of the people of both classes estimated, he thought the difference would be shown to be to a very much greater extent in favour of the educated portion. With the advancement of education the whole country advanced in every element of prosperity. Parliament was continually taking steps for helping forward the country in its various interests, and one of the chief of those interests always had been and always would be the education of the people. While our material interests, and prosperity, and wealth were greatly involved in our school system, it was especially necessary in a country with representative institutions to see to the education of the constituencies. It was impossible that liberty could continue, or the Government of the country be good and pure, unless those whose interests they were elected to represent were well educated and well able to judge of the importance of the measures submitted for their consideration. Parties were divided upon all sorts of questions—upon questions of political economy, finance, and public policy—upon everything that affected the civil rights of the people. There matters were all periodically brought before the constituencies for them to decide between the contending parties. If there was any one question which the House should approach only with the one desire to benefit the common interest, it was the question of education. A great deal had already been done in the matter. For last year he perceived that the expenditure of money upon our public schools amounted to the very large sum of $2,500,000, and there were nearly half a million of pupils in attendance at these schools. There had been progress made in these respects, as well as in all the other departments of our school system. They might or might not have been as great as in other countries, they might not have been so great as we could desire them to be; at any rate advancement had been made, both in the number of our schools and their efficiency. The object he had in view in the Bill before the House was to increase that efficiency, and, if possible, to accomplish more in the future than had been effected in the past. The subject was forced upon his attention soon after his acceptance of his present position, and he gave it all the consideration he could before the opening of the session and during its sitting. He brought in a bill during that session which would have improved the existing law and met the sanction of the House. In view of the other important measures before the House, however, it was found impossible to pass it through [illegible] the stages. The subject [illegible] continued under his consideration [illegible] during the time which had since elapsed, [illegible] as the attention of his colleagues, [illegible] they had very large correspondence and [illegible] many suggestions of amendment from various parties. Indeed, the alterations and amendments suggested were most numerous and contradictory; and he held [illegible] it was impossible that any scheme could be laid before the House upon a subject so vast and so important, without a large amount of alteration and amendment being necessary. He had done what was in his power in the matter. He had considered all the suggestions that had been brought to his attention, either from printed documents, from written communications, or from personal interviews with inspectors, head masters, teachers, trustees, and all who had taken an interest in these matters; and from time to time he had been in communication with the gentlemen of the Education Department, with whom he had discussed the provisions of the Bill. He had now to submit to the House what embodied the result of these suggestions, so far as they commended themselves to his mind, and as far as he thought they would meet with the sanction of the House and the desire of the county. It had been a source of gratification to him in the numerous communications he had received since the introduction of the Bill, to find their general tenor was in favour of its terms, and expressing the opinion that the amendments would be a great improvement upon the existing law, as well as increase the efficiency of the schools. Of course every one had something which he proposed to alter or amend. It seemed to him that this would be a subject which it would be proper to refer to a Select Committee of the House. There were not many subjects regarding which he would consider it proper for the Government to make that proposal. The amendments to the Municipal Laws were last year referred to a Committee, and he was of opinion that this was a subject of the same kind. He intimated that he would be glad to receive suggestions from hon. members opposite as well as from gentlemen upon his own side, and he would be glad to adopt any proposition which appeared to be directed towards the end he had in view. Hon gentlemen on the other side, at the opening of the session intimated that they would not look upon this as a party question; he took this opportunity of reciprocating it sentiments, and saying that upon his side of the House it would not be considered a party measure either. In regard to the addition to be proposed to it, was his purpose to propose amendments to the consolidated Bill he introduced last year, and then consolidate the whole of the school laws—the portion of the law not changed, and the changes, which might be passed now. With reference to those amendments which were introduced by the Sandfield Macdonald Government in the session of 1871, there were considerable differences of opinion. A considerable increase of power was conferred upon the Council of Public Instruction, to which objection was taken, as also to several other provisions of the Bill. He thought it was only proper to give the provisions of that amended Act a fair trial, and accordingly be left a good deal which some of his own friends upon that side of the House would have desired to see changed. But if the very large powers to which so strong objection had been taken were to be continued, it was absolutely necessary that increased vitality should be imparted to the Council of Public Instruction, and the proposal to effect that object was one of the most important parts of the Bill. Another most important provision was that by which he proposed that hereafter books sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction should be purchasable anywhere, at the discretion of School Trustees, instead of at the Depository as at present, and to give the Corporation so purchasing the same percentage as is just now allowed upon purchases from the Depositary. He took the ground that the legislation he proposed upon this point was correct in principle, even assuming that there had been nothing blameable with regard to the management of the Depository by the Council. However fairly the Council might presumed to have acted hitherto, it should not be allowed to hold its present powers without considerable changes in its composition and the mode of its proceedings. At present it consisted of a number of learned and very respectable gentlemen, but they were practically, but they were practically unknown in the country. Their meetings were private, there was no publication of their proceedings in any way. There was no record kept of their votes with regard to questions upon which the public felt that considerable importance attached; there was no knowledge on the part of the public of the discussions which took place at their meetings; and lastly, the appointments were practically for life—one of the greatest objections to its present composition. It consisted at present of eight members and the Chief Superintendent of Education; they held office, it was true, during the pleasure of the Government, according to the Act, but practically they were appointed for life. The public, therefore, had no confidence in it, for neither were they amenable to public opinion in one way or another. If any body of men got power over the interests of the people of this country, similar to those given to the Council of Instruction, their proceedings must be conducted openly; they could not retain their existence unless the people knew what they were doing, and were aware of the stages by which their proceedings were ripened into action. He proposed that the members appointed by the Government should hold office for two years only. He did not propose that the time should absolutely be two years. What he proposed was to make the present law operative, and if members had served their two years, they ceased to hold office unless they were re-appointed. There would thus be a constant revision of that portion of the Council which was appointed by the people—for practically the nominees of the Government, who are in possession of the confidence of the peoples' representatives, were also the nominees of the people. He was quite sure the result would be to give increased weight to the Council in the estimation of the country, and also infusing new energy into its action. It was proposed also to amend the system by which universities were represented in the Council. By the law as it stood—until last session, at all events—the various academic bodies affiliated with the University of Toronto were supposed to be represented by the head of each individual body, but they never attended. There was no provision for paying them travelling expenses, and practically they might just as well not have been members at all. He proposed three changes in respect of this particular matter. First, that these academic bodies should choose their own representative, instead of sending an individual named by the Act, as at present, whose appointment was as good as for life. The head of the institution might not have the necessary time to spare, he might not be a suitable man for the position, and he might not be so well fitted to discharge the duties as some other person whom it was the desire of those interested to send. He proposed that these bodies should have the power of revising their selection every two years, and that in order to secure their attendance, their travelling expenses should be paid. It had been suggested that they should receive an indemnity over and above, but he did not go so far as to propose that. He, however, thought his proposition would have the advantage of causing these bodies to be represented in reality at the Board. For a long time there had been a very strong claim made by the teachers and Inspectors of Public Schools that they should have some representation in the Council, because of the special interest they had in the proceedings there, and because of the special knowledge they possessed with regard to most of the matters coming before the Council. It was even claimed that these very important bodies should, amongst them, have a majority of the Board elected from their ranks. He did not think it proper to go thus far, but he considered it reasonable as well as useful that they should be represented. He therefore proposed that High School Teachers should have one representative, Common School Teachers, one, and County Inspectors, one—these to be also elected every two years. He contended that every member should look upon this matter without party feeling or feeling or personal prejudice; and he was sure that the proposed changes would have the effect of adding largely to the public confidence with which the Council desired, and ought to desire, to be regarded, in so far as it could thus no longer be charged with being irresponsible body, as it now is. The powers possessed by the Council could be exercised with more satisfaction to the public than they were by that body as at present composed. These powers he described as very large indeed, and he quoted the statute which named these powers in proof of the assertion. These powers had been in the possession of the Council for a considerable time, and even supposing that they had done their very best to exercise them in a manner which would tend to the efficiency of the schools it was manifest that a great deal of dissatisfaction had arisen in the country regarding it. It was, therefore, necessary to divise some method by which increased confidence should be established in the public mind regarding its mode of doing its work, and the amenity to public opinion of its members. With regard to the question of book, he asserted that for a long time there had been a strong opinion in various parts of the country that the Depository should be abolished altogether, and that the purchase of books should be free—and not only of books, but of maps for school purposes. It appeared, from the evidence which had been laid before him, that there was considerable difference of opinion as to the expediency of entirely abolishing the Depository. On the other side of the lines it had been found that many books had been put into the hands of children which it was not proper they should have had, and that this was largely the result of the unrestrained efforts of book canvassers to dispose of their goods in that way. It was justly argued that it was not right that public funds should contribute to placing improper literature in the hands of children, or in the Public School libraries. His object had been to find some way by which the purchase of books should be thrown open to the trade, and at the same time the danger arising out of the introduction of questionable books prevented. He proposed that all pupils in the county should be at liberty, as they were under the present law, to attend the High School, although they should be resident outside the district assigned to it, and upon the same terms as the others. He proposed to make the law that there should be uniform questions for the examination of applicants or admission to the High Schools, so that children in all parts of the Province should be subject to the same examination; and these examinations would be subject to be looked over by the same central Committee, thus ensuring a uniform standard admission. This was a recommendation of High Schools Inspectors and masters throughout the Province. Unfortunately, there was a certain amount of antagonism between the public and High School masters, which it was proposed to help to do away with as far as possible by proving that a small sum should be paid to public school teachers for every pupil of theirs who passed a successful examination for admission to the High School. In England a precedent was afforded for this, but he did not propose to offer such large premiums, confining the amount to about two dollars for each pupil. The effect in England has been most excellent, and the probability was that it would be so here. Clause 34 gave school trustees the same powers with regard to raising of the salaries of teachers as was given to railway companies, that is, compulsory powers. He also proposed some modification of the law as regards compulsory attendance, and also that concerning the superannuation of teachers. By the clause referring to the latter, it is proposed that every teacher on reaching the age of 60 should be entitled to his pension whether he is disabled or not. The law would also provide for the organization of school sections in unorganized territories, and for a more easy mode of appointing assistant teachers in High Schools. In conclusion, he hoped that the Bill would be passed substantially as it stood, and the hon gentlemen would forego their individual inclinations with regard to it in many respects. He was satisfied the Bill would place our schools in a better position, and he would ask that hon members on both sides of the House should unite in endeavouring to accomplish that end. He felt certain that it would be a great boon to the country that the law should be amended to the extent proposed. He had no doubt some valuable suggestions would be made in the select Committee to which he proposed to refer it, which, as far as practicable, he would be willing to adopt. If the Bill passed through the House and became law, it was his intention to consolidate all the school laws of the Province, and so arrange them that there could be no doubt as to their correct interpretation. (Loud cheers.)

Mr Rykert objected to the continual tinkering with our school laws. He felt satisfied that it would be far better to allow it to stand as it was originally, than be altering it session after session. The hon. leader of the Government, in seeking to alter some of the features of the law, said he hoped the House would amend the Bill, but he (Mr Rykert) was satisfied that before it passed through that House it would be altered very considerably. They could not attack this measure or the Municipal Bill on a party ground, but the views of hon gentlemen in committee would be brought forth, and the hon. leader of the Government would find that neither the Bill under consideration nor the Municipal nor Assessment Bills would pass without considerable alteration. In his opinion the measure proposed would completely destroy the High School System. He quite agreed with the hon. gentleman that everything should be done to foster and encourage High Schools he found they were disposed to tax County Councils in regard to these to a far greater extent than before. This Bill proposed that County Councils should give an equal sum to the Government grant the increased amount to High Schools year after year. Section 29 gave County Councils the power of doing away with High Schools. This was exactly what they had been seeking for many years. If County County Councils were compelled to pay the increased sums for the maintenance of High Schools, it would exercise the power conferred upon them by clause 29. This was a most dangerous power to give to County Councils. He was opposed the admission of Common school pupils to High Schools as provided in the Act, and condemned the introduction of the clause of the decided opinion which had been previously given concerning the principle by the Treasurer. He objected to the system of examinations proposed, and held it would not prove salutary in its results. The power ought not to be given to an inspector to turn a child out of a school after he had been there a month or two if he failed to pass the examinaaion satifactorily. The hon leader of the Government had a strong desire to change the construction of the Council of Public Instruction. He (Mr Rykert) stated that one of safe guards of our Bench was that our judges were placed there for life, and could not be attacked by outsiders and have their judgments influenced. It was complained that no publicity was given to the proceedings of the Council of Public Instruction, but the minutes of their meetings were laid before hon gentlemen, and if they were not made public it was the fault of the hon gentlemen themselves. He did not think the hon. Premier had made an unnecessary attack on the the Council of Public Instruction, and he felt strongly opposed to passing the Bill in its Present shape. He did not wish to stand in the way of improving our Common and High School system, but he was certain the present measure would not prove beneficial. Hon. gentlemen might satisfy some Hon gentlemen outside by destroying the school depository, but they would not generally improve the system by tinkering with the law.

Mr Bethune regretted that upon this occasion he was compelled to differ with the hon leader of the Administration. He was obliged to do so, however, for two or three reasons. Everthing he believed, ought to be done to improve our High and Common School Education. He believed in the first place that the Council of Public Instruction had been a failure. The members of the Council he was satisfied were free from reproach as far as personal interest was concerned but he believed they had been behind the age, acquainted with the sympathies and feelings of the largest portion of the population of this country, They were for the most part persons residing in the city, and uninformed for the most part as to how the people in the country get on, and as to the wants of the people residing in rural districts. No doubt the Superintendent of Education had done a great deal for education in this country, but that gentleman, during the occupation of his office, had acquired many hobbies. This was shown in the papers he had supplied the House with. When Mr Sandfield Macdonald last introduced his School Bill, the confidence of the people was withdrawn from that gentleman, because there was an opinion that there was too much pressure put upon him by the Chief Superintendent of Education. The question was a very difficult one to deal with, because it affected the conscience and the pockets of the people. One of the reasons why the Council of Public Instruction had been a failure was that the Chief Superintendent of Education had not always been discreet. That gentleman had shown a weakness for letter writing, and principally from that there had been a feeling abroad that the Council of Public Instruction was a mere register of the will of the Chief Superintendent of Education, and a want of confidence was consequently felt in it. He did not charge that gentleman with any impropriety, but from time to time he had descended from the position of neutrality which he ought to occupy, and so far forgotten his duty as to write letters of an aggravated character, attacking one party and then another, and of the one addressed to his hon friend the leader of the administration. It was necessary that public officers should abstain from that knd of thing without the consent of the Government or his hon friend the leader of the administration. What would be said if Mr Langmuir came out with a violent philippic against the persons who had attacked him about the prison? He (Mr Bethune) Maintained that it was not conducive to the public service for public officers to take up the position of a correspondent to the newspapers. The result of this correspondence of the Chief Superintendent of Education had been the withdrawal of of public confidence from him. He (Mr Bethune) did not believe the legislation was in the right direction. He thought the head of the Education Department should be directly responsible to the people, and that the old system should be given up. This was the only way in which harmony with the sentiments of the people could be obtained, and it was absolutely necessary to protect our educational system. The Government has now either to do something to remove the existing evil, or blot out the Council of Public Instruction. The next best to that he had proposed to bring the Council in harmony with the people had been adopted. Another reason why the Council had been a failure was that when the Act of Mr Sandfield Macdonald was passed, an attempt was made to centralize the power. The result of that Act was the passage of regulations of Council in reference to school houses, which provided for the inspection of school houses, and in the event of there not being adequate accommodation, for the reconstruction of the school house. This was found to work unfairly. In some instances the school accommodation was greatly superior to the accommodation in the homes of the children. He considered that in such instances both cases should be taken into consideration. He, however, maintained that the Council of Public Instruction had not the power to make these regulations. The members of that Council assumed powers not vested in them by statute—he did not say intentionally. It was proposed to extend the compulsory clauses of the Act of 1870-1. His hon friend said he proposed to alleviate them, but he (Mr Bethune) considered it was an extension of them. It was not a pleasant duty for any person to become a prosecutor, and there was nothing more disagreeable than to prosecute one's neighbour. And if there was one thing invidious than another, it was to prosecute a man for not sending his children to school. The compulsory clause was not necessary in this country. Only 12,000 children were represented as not attending school, and the legislation in this particular had been a dead letter, and he believed this was legislation in the wrong direction. The law would be, if the Bill were passed, that the unfortunate man who kept his child from school would have to pay $12 a year for keeping his children from school. It would be found utterly impossible to legislate the sentiments of the people. He also objected to the clause compelling County Councils to raise sums in each case equivalent to the Government grant. This he considered was a Provincial matter. The Common School question was a matter of local importance, while the other, as he said before, was of Provincial importance, and should therefore be paid out of the Provincial Exchequer. He submitted that the wisest way would be to make grants out of the Public Exchequer in aid of these Grammar Schools if they were in a languishing condition. He observed that if an attempt was to be made to obtain for the *Journal of Education* some legislative sanctions. The cost of the publication of that paper was $2,500 a year, and was merely so much waste paper; as far as worth was concerned: if this information it was desired to publish were printed upon an extra sheet of the *Gazette* it could be printed for about $500 and save the expenditure of $2,000 annually With regard to clause 68, as the government of New Normal Schools, he thought there was time enough for legislation in that direction. He thought, with respect to the School Depository, the Government had taken a course which commends itself to every gentleman in the House and it would remove the causes for complaint which it had been considered existed. There were other provisions with which he agreed. It was utterly impossible for the Government to bring down a measure which would meet with the unanimous support of every section of the House, because each one knew the needs of the different parts of the country. He believed there should be an attempt made not only to make the legislation as fair as possible but also make it appear fair to every section of the community.

Mr Calvi said there were a few questions in which there were so much interest manifested. The people in his section of the country was quite alarmed with regard to legislation in this respect, and they desired amendment of this law objected to the raising of the standard of the schools. The people were not prepared to bring up the Common School and abolish the Grammar School. He was opposed to the great powers given to the Council of Public Instruction, and said that in Committee he would present a memorial from his constituents in order to show what their feelings were. He strongly deprecated the pulling down of school houses, and went on to state the School Law had already killed one political party, and he would undertake to say that if this Bill were passed another party would be killed. (Laughter.) The libraries were an unnecessary expense to Common Schools, for the books were not read. He also objected to the present system of inspection and would oppose the Bill which is now before the House.

Mr Snetsinger could not agree with the clause compelling the County Council to give an equal amount to the Government grant. The people in their districts complained of the text books being changed so frequently. He was in favour of the provision with regard to the building of school houses, and thought the clause with regard to compulsory attendance should be retained.

Mr Curry was pleased to see the manner in which the Bill was received He would much rather have seen a measure introduced for the consolidation of the School Laws with regard to the Council of Public Instruction. He thought the elective features would add to the popularity and efficiency of that body, and he would like to see the representation of school teachers increased beyond that proposed in the present Bill. He could not agree with his honourable friend from Lincoln, that the effect of the Bill would be to destroy our present High School system, or that it would have the effect of reducing the number of High Schools. Nor could he agree with the clause providing that counties should supplement the Government grant by an equal sum, because it would a great burden to some counties. He was opposed to the 24th clause, providing for the establishment of preparatory clauses for the preparation of pupils for admission to High Schools. He certainly did not believe in centralizing powers that might safely be left in the hands of the people or the people's representatives. The compulsory clause he considered unnecessary, and suggested that after twenty five or thirty years teachers should be allowed to retire upon their superannuation allowance. Then he thought that if a school teacher had a claim for salary against a school trustee he should have more time than three months in which to prosecute. He would move that the two last lines of the 52nd clause should be struck out. He did not think inspectors should be allowed to engage in other business, as they were well paid for their duties in this respect. With respect to the Depository, he thought the improvement would be very well received by the country, and he was assured that no schools had less reason to complain of a want of liberality than High Schools. He was glad it was intended to send this Bill to a Special Committee, and he trusted it would in committee be approached in the same manner it had been. It was the sincere desire of all to make the educational system the best they possibly could, and he trusted that when the Bill came back from Committee it would come back in such a shape that it would meet with the cordial approval of the House and the people.

Mr Hodgins thought the scope of the Bill should commend itself to the House. The new element proposed to be introduced into the Council of Public Instruction would tend to elevate the status of that body. There were some points with regard to the constitution of the Council which he thought should be modified. It was proposed to elect school teachers. It seemed to him they should not elect teachers who would be enabled to control the acts of the School Inspectors, the superior officers of the teachers. It seemed to him they should not elect teachers or school inspectors on the Council. There was another element which should be introduced, he thought, into the Council. They had no representatives of the tax paying element, and if they were to have representatives, from the County and City Councils, he believed it would prove advantageous, and the confidence of the people would be obtained to a greater extent. There were some of the clauses which he objected to, and one was allowing Common School pupils to pass High School examinations. With regard to other sections of the Bill, he would defer his observations until it was returned from the Special Committee. It was certainly to be regretted that the Chief Superintendent of Education, had entered into the political arena, but when his personal honour was attacked he thought that officer had a right, and that it was his bounden duty, to defend himself.

Mr Deroche said he did not believe that the time when the Councils of Public Instruction should be done away with had come, although it might come yet. He thought that the Goverment had taken the best course possible under the circumstances. He had opportunities of becoming acquainted with the members of the Council, and he would say for them no body of men could have laboured more earnestly, more honestly, more zealously, or more unselfishly for the educational interests of the Province that they had performed their duties without pay, simply as a labour of love, and he thought they deserve better of country than to be attacked as they had been. He believed that the great object to the present School Law was the compulsory clause, and he did not know but it would be better if that clause were omitted from the new law. Still as it appeared that there were only 12,000 children not attending school in Ontario last year, this clause would not, after all, prove a very great difficulty. With reference to Inspectors, he remarked that the duty of an Inspector would not be enough in small towns to employ much of their time, and large enough could not be paid to get efficient men to fill the office. There had been cases already in which the office had gone a begging. He did not think, with a previous speaker, that it was a matter to regret that the High Schools had not increased. One efficient school in a county was more valuable than 4 which were not efficient. The fact was there were too many High Schools, and there were places where if there were not a High School—an efficient one—there would be a good Public School. Another objection which had also been urged to the present law was that too much power was given to the Inspector. He agreed that in some cases inspectors had exercised indiscreetly the power the law gave them.

Mr Craig (Glengarry) contended that a compulsory clause was necessary, for even in wealthy sections, the people would frequently neglect to erect proper school houses. He held also that this clause did not require the sending of children so long to school as to cause hardship even to parents. With reference to the Inspectors, he remarked, that if in any case it was that the Inspector was not such a man as should fill the office, it was easy enough to get rid of him.

Mr Clarke (Norfolk) suggested that as the hour was late, and there were several other gentlemen who wanted to speak on this Bill, the debate should be adjourned.

Mr McLeod agreed with Mr Clarke. He moved the adjournment of the debate until to-morrow.

The House then, at 11:45 adjourned.

THE WILD NORTH LAND.

Capt. Butler author of the "The Great Loan Land," has published a work entitled "The Wild North Land, being the story of a Winter Journey with Dogs across Northern North America." In the appendix he refers to the Administration for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in the course of his remarks says:

"But to cross the Frazer River would be a work of enormous magnitude—a work greater, I believe, than any at present existing on the earth; for at no point of its course from Quesnelle to Lytton is the Frazer less than 1,200 below the level of the land at either side of it and from one steep scarped bank to the other is a distance of a mile or more than a mile.

"How, I ask, is this mighty fissure, extending right down the country from north to south, to be crossed, and a passage gained to the Pacific? I "answer that the true passage of the Pacific lies far north the Frazer River, and that the true passage of the Rocky Mountains lies far north of the Tete Jaune Pass."

Captain Butler goes on to say that "one hundred miles north of the Tete Jaune, on the east, or Saskatchewan side of the Rocky Mountains, there lies a beautiful land. It has some of the richest prairie land in the entire range of the North-west." The Peace River lies north of this prairie country. "The Smoking River flows almost through its centre. * * * The average elevation of this prairie above sea level would be under 2,000 feet. In the mountains lying west and north there are two passes; one is the Peace River, * * the other is a pass lying some thirty or forty miles south of the Pacific River, known at present only to the Indians, but well worth the trouble and expense of a thorough exploration, ere Canada hastily decides upon the best routes across its wide Dominion."

Captain Butler continues, "And here I may allude to the exploratory surveys which the Canadian Government has already inaugurated. A great amount of work has, without doubt, been accomplished by the several parties sent out over the long line from Ottawa to New Westminster; but the results have not been, so far, equal to the expenditure of the surveys, or to the means placed at the disposal of various parties. * * But I cannot refrain from paying a passing tribute to the energy and earnestness displayed by the gentlemen who, during the close of the summer 1872, crossed the mountains by the Peace River Pass, and reached the West at Fort Simpson, near the mouth of the Skeena River."

In support of the route through the Peace River Pass, supposing the unexplored Indian Pass to be unfit, Captain Butler presents a formidable array of arguments—topographical, agricultural, and climatic. He states that "the present projected line through the Saskatchewan is eminently unsuited to settlement, as it crosses the bleak, poor prairies of the Eagle Hills * * * For all purposes of settlement, it may be said to lie fully 80 miles far too south, during a course of 300 or 400 miles.

We are informed that it is proposed to make a trial for six months of the plan of dispensing with corporal punishment in the Public Schools of Ottawa; that is to say, none will be inflicted during that period except with the cognizance of the Inspector or Principals.