

contained in the bill laid on the table the other day. It has, however, one new provision enabling the trustees to determine on the site of school houses. They are, to furnish school accommodation. It also provides schooling free of charge to all persons resident within the section of five years and upwards. It makes provision for the different grades of schools, and for blending them together. The ninth clause provides for arrangements to be made between the governing body of any academical or other institution drawing a distinct grant from the legislature, and three trustees of any school, for the purpose of incorporating the two, to further the advantage of the section where they may be situated. There are cases where persons might be contributing to an academical institution, and it would be hardly fair for them to pay to the general assessment fund without receiving any benefit in return. It is the same clause that is in the new act. The tenth clause gives to trustees of any section the power of admitting to school privileges pupils from other sections under certain terms. The eleventh clause gives the trustees power to suspend or expel any pupil from a school who shall persist in disobedience or be guilty of any vice that may demoralize the other pupils. It also provides for the dismissal of any teacher for gross neglect of duty, or immorality. The trustees are to acquaint the examiner with their decision, and he shall forward a statement of the matter to the superintendent, and the pay of any such teacher shall cease unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Commissioners on an appeal by the party accused. The twelfth clause allows the trustees to call a special meeting to transact any necessary business other than what is required to be performed at the general meetings. The thirteenth clause gives to the provincial examiners the power of granting licences to teachers. The fourteenth clause ratifies the proceedings at those meetings where the law has been adopted which have not been altogether regular. The fifteenth clause is in reference to Colchester and Queens, which have two distinct boards, and in the appendix to the act of last year the grant was put down for these counties in one sum. It was divided, however, by the council of public instruction on the proper scale, but the law specifically gave it to each county in one lump. The sixteenth clause confirms the lines of school sections, as not laid down by the council of public instruction, until altered. In fact, I may say, the chief object of the bill is to legalize errors that have arisen in consequence of parties who have adopted the law in good faith not properly appreciating its provisions.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that the policy of the government in relation to the important subject of Education had been already explained to the house in connection with the bill laid on the table a few days ago. The object of the present bill was simply to provide all the facilities that were possible for the schools of the country during the ensuing six months,—enabling meetings to be held where they have neglected to hold them, and providing for the arrangement of technical difficulties which have occurred under the law, and legalizing certain irregular proceedings which proceeded from a misapprehension of the provisions of the Statute. Whatever opinions gentlemen might have as to the policy of the

existing law—as to the mode in which it should be altered to meet the necessities of the country, he took it for granted that there was no doubt as to the propriety of this house, by an enactment such as was now proposed by his hon. friend, rendering legal the action which has been taken by the inhabitants in different sections for the purpose of putting schools into operation. He was sure that every one would at once see the necessity of removing difficulties which now existed in carrying on the education of the county.

Mr. ARCHIBALD, who was almost inaudible, said that all matters connected with education were of too great importance to be disposed of in a few cursory observations. When the whole subject came up legitimately, then he would enter into the merits of the question as fully as the vital consequences involved demanded at his hands.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said that there was no new principle endeavored to be established in connection with the present bill. The acts of grand juries, of sessions, and of various public officers, had frequently to be legalized.

Mr. BLANCHARD considered it inadvisable to pass the present bill before the general measure on education was first disposed of; a large portion of the former was taken from the latter. He thought the bill should be printed.

Hon. PROV. SEC. replied that, alter the new bill as you might, it would not change the object of the present act. Its object, as he had stated, was merely to facilitate the management of educational matters up to the period when the new act would, if passed by the house, go into operation.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL expressed his opinion that the main bill introduced the other day should be the first one disposed of.

Mr. ARCHIBALD also gave it as his opinion that the main bill should be the first discussed.

After some further observations, it was agreed that the bill should be printed immediately for the information of members.

HARBOUR-MASTERS AT SYDNEY.

Mr. BOURNOUT introduced an act to authorize the appointment of a harbour-master at Sydney, C. B. The law, he stated, now provided for harbour-masters at Spanish River, but, as the house was aware, there were two ports on the river, one of which had already such an officer. The present bill went to provide for a harbor-master at Sydney town, and defined the limits assigned to each.

PEOPLE'S BANK.

Mr. TOBIN introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating the People's Bank of Halifax. He stated that its object was merely to make a few immaterial amendments, and to alter the time of holding the annual meetings. No change in the charter was contemplated.

PETITIONS.

Mr. RAY presented a petition from ninety-four persons in Annapolis Royal, requesting a repeal of the present school act.

Also, a petition from Annapolis county relative to the dog tax.

ASSESSMENT.

Mr. DONALD FRASER introduced an act to amend chap. 46, R. S.,—Of county assessment.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL hoped the house would pause before they put a revision upon almost every chapter of the Revised Statutes. The whole question of assessment was fully disposed of last session.