

Mr. McCLELLAN said no hon. member could object to the position taken by the hon. member for the city of Saint John. There could be no doubt but that a Reformatory was very much needed there. The only objection he raised was that it was sectional and sectarian, and therefore should not be supported by the funds of the Province. He thought the Catholics were entitled to much praise for the step they were taking, but this School being entirely for the benefit of Saint John, and under the care of the Catholic body, should not be upheld by public grants. He did not think such Institutions were needed in any other part of the country; but, apart from the grant, was willing to assist in carrying out the views of those who had framed the Bill.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said the objections to the Bill seemed to be narrowing down to the details. Judges Parker and Ritchie, whose only motives could be to bring juvenile offenders from the paths of vice and iniquity into those of virtue, had taken great interest in this matter, and he thought the House should take hold with them and do something to assist in carrying out so laudable an object. The training in this school would be sectarian and he thought it should be; he did not see how such an Institution could be carried on if it were not sectarian. As to the grant the Governor and Council were not compelled to take action, and give towards its support. All denominations could organize under this law, and amounts could be granted to each as required. It was, however, entirely voluntary on the part of the Governor and Council, and also on the part of the Sessions, to grant anything towards its support. If there were any objection to this Section, he had no doubt the hon. mover would consent to have it struck out. And as there was so little objection, he thought it would be best to go on and pass the Bill at once.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—3 P. M.

Mr. KERR said Section 7 gave authority to the Sessions to assess the whole inhabitants to any amount needed for an object that was entirely sectarian, and as there was no petition from them asking that such a power might be granted he thought the Committee should pause before passing the Bill. Section 10 says that this Reformatory could only be made available for one denomination, and he did not think that all other sects should be assessed to support it. He hoped progress would be reported, to give time for the Bill to be printed and circulated about the country.

Hon. Mr. SMITH could see no objection to it. If gentlemen chose to get up a school of this kind and to support it, every encouragement should be given them. There was no danger that the Sessions would assess the whole population for one denominational school, and if the hon. mover would strike out the Section with reference to the Governor and Council, he could see nothing objectionable in the Bill, or that required that progress should be reported.

Mr. CONNELL said his only objection was that a grant should be taken from the Provincial funds.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN thought the striking out of that clause would seriously detract from the usefulness of the Institution. He should test the feeling of the House upon it, but he would rather consent to have it struck out than have no Bill at all. He thought the Committee now thoroughly understood the Bill, and did not call for reporting progress. So far as the in-

struction was concerned this school would be denominational; but it was neither sectarian nor sectional that we should have one murderer, or one thief, or one felon the less, and the community one good citizen more. He was opposed to even the smallest denomination having anything but fair play, and he asked no more for the denomination to which he belonged than that he would willingly grant Protestant Episcopalians, or Presbyterians, or Baptists.

Mr. HILL considered the move a good one; taking up the youth who had been surrounded by evil influences all their lives and placing them where better habits would be inculcated. The objectionable point was that the Governor and Council may give pecuniary assistance. The "may" might just as well be "shall," for that was the effect of the clause. The carrying on of a Reformatory was hedged with difficulties. If it should be carried on without any religious instruction, in five years the inmates would be more like heathens than Christians. Then it would certainly be a wrong to compel them to receive a certain denominational education contrary to the wishes of their parents. And then there was the plan now introduced; but this is denominational, and he did not wish to see the Government suffering any greater denominational pressure than now, and he thought the Government grant should be struck out. But with regard to the Sessions he was willing to go further than the Bill provided, and make it compulsory on them to assess the people to support such a school. If a youth were sent there, it was not for the benefit of the denomination to which his father belonged, but for the good of the community. He did not approve of any more denominational grants, for he believed that now some schools received assistance more on account of the denomination than from any merits they possessed in themselves.

Hon. Mr. HATHERWAY thought the question should not be taken up on denominational grounds. He registered that religion was brought up in connection with grants to schools. It had long been complained that the Provincial Penitentiary had been used for these young miscreants, while the people all over the Province had to pay for their support. The Gael accommodation of Saint John was not sufficient, and so they had to be sent there; and now when it is proposed to take them off the hands of the Province, complaints are made that it is the work of a certain denomination. In his official capacity, as one of the Commissioners of Public Institutions, he had seen children working at the same bench with the vilest criminals. This should not be. He was in favor of the Bill, and should go for anything that would tend to benefit these juvenile offenders.

Mr. WETMORE referred to the position of boys in the Penitentiary; that they were liable to the same penalties as the men; that from the influences by which they had been surrounded all their lives they were not so much to blame; that their being sent to the Penitentiary was but the means of hardening and totally destroying them; and he thought they should not be sent there at all, but at once put into a Reformatory, and that there everything should be done to save them from a life of degradation and crime.

Mr. NEEDHAM had never known but one case of good resulting from punishment during the ten years of his magistracy, and that was a boy who was sentenced to the Penitentiary with two others. He

came back and has since lived honestly and worked industriously. He believed that children should not be sent there at all, but that Magistrates should have power to commit them directly to the Reformatory. The object of conviction was not punishment, but reformation. He held that punishment should never be inflicted by man except for murder, and he fully believed that if during the last century men had done as much to reform abuses as they have to punish offences there would not be so much crime and degradation as there now are.

Mr. THOMPSON was anxious to see some such Institution established, as he believed it would be the means of saving a large amount of money in the expenditure for the Provincial Penitentiary.

Mr. GILBERT said it was evident that juvenile delinquency was on the increase; this was shown by the report of the Chief of Police in Saint John. It, therefore, now becomes necessary for the Legislature to deal with the matter, and decide whether these young criminals should continue to be educated in crime, or stop the present system and train them in a Reformatory, where their habits would be changed. This was not a local affair; it was not confined to Saint John, but one in which all the country felt an interest. After the friends of the Institution had done all their means would permit, the Government should step in and assist in the work. The system now proposed is carried out in England and upheld by English law. If it is wished to reform these youths it is not only necessary to give them a moral training but also a religious, a spiritual training; the only mode by which they could permanently be benefited is by giving them a Christian training in that which is right and good. (He thought the hon. member for Saint John (Mr. Anglin) deserved much credit for introducing the Bill.

Mr. McMILLAN did not view this question in the light of a denominational institution but as a sectional, a local one. It had been admitted that even Frederickton was not in a position to support one of these Reform Schools, and it was evident that only Saint John could be benefited. He therefore should oppose the granting of the Provincial funds for a purely local object.

Mr. KERR regretted that an Institution could not be obtained that would embrace the whole juvenile offenders of the Province, but as it appeared this could not be done, he thought this one had as strong a claim on the revenues of the country. Still he was opposed to giving the power to grant into the hands of the Governor and Council.

On the question whether power should be given to the Governor and Council to grant assistance to the Institution the House divided—Yeas 10. Nays 11.

Progress was then reported.

Mr. CONNELL moved the House into Committee of the whole on a Bill relating to Marriage. Mr. LEWIS in the Chair.

This Bill, the object of which is to shorten the time in the publication of banns, and to reduce licence fees, was supported by Petitions from almost every part of the Province.

After some remarks by various members, progress was reported.

Hon. Mr. TILLSON moved for leave to bring in a Bill relating to Light Houses.

Mr. KERR moved for leave to bring in a Bill relating to Saint John's Church, Chatham.

House adjourned to meet on Thursday morning at 9 o'clock.