

Dr. Patrick moved to strike out the provision for poll tax. He made a somewhat elaborate argument against the principle of the poll tax, holding that the same reason which impelled the House to abolish the tax in relation to Statute Labor districts should lead its elimination from the village law. The village taxes went wholly for purposes which served to improve the value of property, therefore taxes could properly be levied only upon property. There was no more reason to compel the temporary resident to share the outlay upon sidewalks, than there would be to compel the farmer, who used the roads and sidewalks weekly or oftener, to bear a share. It was a good principle that the taxpayer should have a voice in the distribution of the taxes, and as the temporary resident was not permitted to vote he should not be made to pay. Dr. Patrick pointed out that every Canadian who consumes the common articles of food, wears clothing, smokes a pipe or drinks a glass of liquor, is already a poll tax payer for the payment he receives in return the protection and privileges afforded every Canadian, and the tax was thus fair. In any event that was not the place to discuss the Dominion poll tax, he simply pointed it to show that no man escapes taxation. He thought it unfair to impose in villages a tax which went to improve property up in men who owned no property and who were not allowed a voice in the distribution of the tax.

The committee refused to strike out the poll tax, only Messrs. Patrick, Ross, and Mowat voting in favor of the motion, but another motion by Dr. Patrick was accepted which makes the term of residence in a village to make liable to the tax nine instead of three months. A further suggestion by Dr. Patrick to give a vote to the poll tax payer was allowed to stand over.

There was animated discussion upon various unimportant details of the bill. At 5:30 the committee reported progress and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, Sept. 12.

To Mr. Boucher's question asking what instructions were given to the District Engineer respecting the McKenzie Crossing ferry, Mr. Ross replied that no instructions were given.

Mr. Gillis asked: Why the bridge across Weed Lake, which was provided for in the Estimates last year, has not been constructed? Mr. Ross replied that the site specified had been found unsuitable, and the owner of the property where suitable site was selected declined to give right of way. So the matter could not be proceeded with until steps were taken under the expropriation pro-

NORMAL SCHOOL WORK.

Mr. McNauley asked: What normal School sessions are held in the Territories? Where are they held and what determines the choice of location?

3. How many weeks training does each class of teachers receive? 4. What is the essential difference between the training of second and third class teachers?

5. Have the Government any intention of establishing a school class session in Alberta?

Mr. Ross stated that after the Government shall have received the necessary information from the District Engineer, decision will be given.

SCHOOL LANDS.

Mr. McDonald asked the Government whether it is their intention to request the Dominion Government to make sale of such of the School lands in the Territories as have attained a value equal to the amount fixed by statute, at the minimum price at which they may be sold.

Mr. Haultain said that this was a question to which the Government could not give a categorical answer. They could not lay down a point blank rule. He did give a qualified Yes as the answer, and said the Government would advise the sale wherever the conditions made the price of the land sufficiently large. The understanding with the Minister of the Interior is that sales shall be made on the representations of this Government. This was a subject in which each case would have to be considered on its own merits. As to the whole question there were two points of view. By selling the lands they would be opening up lands to settlement and leading to its being brought under taxation. On the other hand the school lands represented a capital account for Territorial school funds. Thus there was the question whether present sale would result in advantage equal to the advantage which would be reaped by holding the lands until their selling price might reach a higher figure.

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To question No. 6.—"It is not necessary for the sake of the schools, and it is not advisable in the interests of the candidates. Experience has demonstrated the unadvised of trying to train these two classes together. It was attempted in the Territories in 1892 with results unsatisfactory to the students and the instructor. It was discontinued in Manitoba and Ontario years ago. If our Inspectors who, with Mr. Gagnon's assistance, train the 3rd class candidates, were qualified to do this additional work, and they have not made the necessary special preparations therefor, they could not afford to give the extra month thereto. They now find it difficult enough to visit all their schools and this difficulty is increasing each year. As soon as we can afford to do so it is the intention to separate completely the sessions for 1st and 2nd class candidates as is now done in Manitoba and Ontario."

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