

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, the 26th Day of July, 1893.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. W. HUTCHISON, in Committee, to move the following new clauses :—

PART III.

24. If, and as often as, not less than twenty parents or guardians of children attending a public school having an average attendance of one hundred children and upwards shall by requisition in writing to the School Committee request that the reading of the Bible, with or without comment, may be instituted in the school, the Committee, if satisfied of the genuineness of the requisition and of the signatures thereto, shall take such steps as may be necessary to permit such Bible-reading, with or without comment as aforesaid, in a class-room separate and apart from the others :

Provided that the following conditions be first complied with by or on behalf of the requisitionists :

- (1.) They shall appoint a suitable person specially for the purpose of superintending and teaching such Bible-class. This person shall not be a teacher in the public school.
- (2.) They shall provide a fund sufficient for the payment of the services of the person so appointed in this respect, and for any other expenses incident to the efficient carrying-out of the Bible-class.
- (3.) They shall appoint a committee of five of their number to act in conjunction with the School Committee, in so far as the management and control of the class-room set apart for the Bible-class is concerned, during such time as the class-room is used for such purpose.
- (4.) The hour for holding the Bible-class shall be definitely fixed. The time occupied shall in no case exceed thirty minutes, and may be daily or at less frequent intervals, as may be mutually arranged by the Inspector, the School Committee, and the Bible-class Committee, having due regard to the convenience of the ordinary secular teaching of the school, which may not be interfered with in the case of those children attending the school who are not attending the Bible-class.

25. The Bible-class Committee shall have the power of admitting children to the Bible-class whether or not attending the school as ordinary pupils, and whether or not the parents or guardians of such children contribute towards the expenses in connection with such Bible-class.

26. Section eighty-four of the said Act, and all other parts thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the foregoing provisions, are hereby repealed.