

haps be better to make a further distribution of the surplus amongst the population of the Province upon the same basis as in 1873 than to allow it to be used up in assisting wild-cat railway schemes, which might ultimately prove to be financial failures as business undertakings. He believed, at all events, that petitions would be presented to the House in favour of that view. There was a feeling existing among the people that railway aid was something like charity bestowed on street beggars—it was not always given to the most deserving, but occasionally to those who were the most "cheeky" and importunate. (Hear, hear.) He thought the thanks of the House and of the people were due to the citizens of Toronto for having been the means of giving the *quietus* to one railway project, to which otherwise the Legislature might have been asked to grant aid, and perhaps also to assist a number of smaller schemes dependent upon their connection with the Toronto and Ottawa Road. It was gratifying to know that the immigration to the Province had been as great during the past year as in 1876, and fully as large as had been anticipated (hear, hear, and cheers); and furthermore, that it was better in regard to the quality of our immigrants. The class who had come into the country were chiefly tenant farmers and men of capital. There was no doubt that there would be room for many years to come for a large influx of these and farm labourers—

the material from which had been formed a large proportion of our most industrious and prosperous settlers. It was not the new immigrants coming from the Old Country unaccustomed to the hardships of those regions, who would assist most in their development, but the sons of our farmers, who are acquainted with the privations and difficulties of the country, and there was no doubt that the latter class would be ultimately successful, and make that part of the Province as prosperous as many other older sections. With regard to our educational system, one of its most important features was the proper training of teachers, which would have great influence in the successful prosecution of educational work. The educational department of the Government might devise and perfect theoretical plans, but unless there were skilled workmen to carry out their designs the result would be disappointment and failure. To supply the want of trained teachers they had hitherto erected and maintained large Normal Schools—one at Ottawa, and the other at Toronto. It was intended that those schools should be Provincial in their character, but the attendance had been almost solely local. To remedy this defect in our educational system the erection of Model Schools was undertaken by the Legislature, and he thought that the expenditure the Province had made in that direction had proved much more fruitful and beneficial than the erection of two or three more large Normal Schools could have been. When the suggestion for the erection of the Model Schools was first entertained it was feared that they might only supply material from the towns and villages in their immediate neighbourhood; experience, however, had shown that the attendance was much larger than was anticipated, and embraced students from all the townships surrounding the places where they were established. He was sure they were much indebted to the present head of the Education Department for this great step in educational matters, and he was also confident that the facilities which that gentleman enjoyed at the hands of the Government and the members of the House would enable him to devise other reforms which would meet with a like measure of success. While on this subject, it might not be out of place to refer to the enquiry which had recently taken place with regard to the surreptitious issue of examination papers. It was satisfactory to know that one of the serious charges preferred in this connection when tried before one of our judges had been satisfactorily cleared up. The House had full confidence in the ability and integrity

of our judges, and would receive with great respect this decision, which was to the effect that there had been no mal-administration on the part of those charged with so grave an offence. As to the other enquiry, no doubt to some extent public confidence had been shaken in the methods devised for the proper secrecy and custody of examination papers, but he had no doubt the Minister of Education would be able to introduce some more stringent regulations which would render such offences impossible in the future; and if by a further appropriation or greater expenditure the necessary secrecy could be secured, he was sure the House would not refuse to grant the money. When the head of the Department of Education was taken into the Government, an objection was raised and a fear entertained that political feeling might be introduced into the administration of the Department; but he could with pleasure bear testimony that everything undertaken by the Minister of Education had been faithfully and impartially carried out. While, however, bearing testimony to this fact, he was sorry to say the newspaper prints had not carried out the wise resolution formed by members of the Opposition, not to allow politics to interfere with the administration of this important branch of the public service. (Hear, hear.) They were congratulated in the address upon the success of the measures passed on the subject of intemperance. He believed the Crooks Act was an important concession to the temperance sentiment of the country, and it was certainly pleasing to the promoters of that measure, as well as to the House, that many of its most bitter opponents were now convinced of its advisability, and were pleased that the law had been strictly carried out. This spoke well, not only for the measure itself, but also for the manner in which it had been administered throughout the country; and he took this opportunity for complimenting the Licensing Commissioners and Inspectors upon the judicious manner in which they had performed their duties. He thought those officers were entitled to the thanks of the House and the country, for they had discharged their duty without compensation and in an entirely efficient manner. He was of opinion that those who were formerly opposed to Crooks' Act were misled as to the probable effects of the measure. They were led to believe that the hotel and saloon-keepers would be greatly incensed by its passage, but since the Act had gone into operation it was found that those classes were thoroughly satisfied with it. One hotel-keeper had told him that the principal objection was the supposed difficulty to keep the houses clear at night in accordance with the provisions of the Act; but this difficulty disappeared as soon as it came into operation, everyone leaving the saloons when the closing hour arrived without being requested to do so. In his (Mr. Ross') opinion the Act had tended to raise the character and standing of hotel-keepers, and there was no doubt that its provisions and the method in which they had been carried out had given general satisfaction. The House was also congratulated upon having consolidated the statutes of Ontario. There was no doubt that this consolidation would be thoroughly welcome to the legal profession; it was at any rate very welcome to the general public. (Applause.) The magistrates of the Province, who had performed their onerous and disagreeable duties with admirable judgment, would find the revised statutes a great boon, and he hoped that every qualified magistrate in the Province would be supplied with a copy. Any expense incurred in this direction, he thought, would be cheerfully borne by the public, and heartily concurred in by the House. These statutes would also be of great benefit to municipal officers and school authorities. While it could not be expected that all of these should be provided with copies, it might be advisable to have the Acts relating to the school law printed in separate form. He was sure the head of the Educational Department would always be happy to assist school authorities in the performance of their duties, and that the House would concur in any expenditure which