

Now, sir, these are the opinions as I find them expressed by Sir John Macdonald upon this question. But Sir John is not the only man who is a leader of the Conservative party who expressed wrong convictions upon this question. Dalton McCarthy, one of the Conservative leaders at Ottawa, and who is looked upon as the probable future Minister of Justice, declared positively that the question was one with which the Government of the Province had no right to deal. Now, sir, I think the people of this Province have great reason to feel proud of the decisions in the questions I have referred to. For years we have felt that there was very little use of our Provincial system of Government if the legislation passed here was to be disallowed, and that we had better have a Legislative instead of a Federal Union, but to-day the spectacle is presented of the Premier of the Province of Ontario having contended, and successfully contended, for the interests of the Province, and now that these questions have been settled in our favour I trust that there will be fewer causes of discord in the future than there have been in the past, that hereafter the Legislature of this Province will be allowed to transact its own legislation, and that the result will be to conduce to the happiness and prosperity of the whole Dominion. (Loud cheers.) Now, sir, I see that in the seventh paragraph we are asked to congratulate ourselves upon the very

FOUNTAIN HARVEST.

and this is a cause of congratulation to any people. But while we have reason to feel thankful that Providence has been kind, in another sense there are causes for regret. The marketable value of grain is not all that could be desired as it otherwise would have been. Perhaps we have all some interest in asking ourselves where the protection is whose magic wand was to make us prosperous and happy by raising the prices. Of course this is an absurd question, but no more so than the contention of the Conservative party in 1878 that under a protective tariff the farmers would meet with a greatly increased market. (Hear, hear.) In 1877, and that was the time when our opponents said there was an opportunity for enriching the farmer, if we had had the 29,717,631 bushels of fall wheat garnered this year at the price of \$1.28 per bushel then prevailing instead of 84c as now, we would have realized \$26,518,567 instead of only \$17,402,810, which shows a decrease of \$9,115,757. If for spring wheat this year we had the prices ruling at that time that crop would have brought \$17,823,786, while at the present time the prices ruling will only bring \$12,564,308, being a decrease of \$5,259,478. The prices of oats obtainable in 1877 would have brought us \$21,924,595. There is a decrease of \$1,730,889. By a similar comparison there is a decrease of \$1,232,245, and of rye of \$65,930, or a total decrease of \$17,404,290.

ACCOMMODATION FOR INSANE.

Now, sir, we come to a part of the Address in which there is cause for regret. It appears that there are several hundreds of unfortunate people in the gaols who ought to be in insane asylums. It is true that we have accommodation for nearly 3,000 persons; it is true that the payment for the maintenance of these patients amounts to a very large sum; it is needful that there be increased accommodation and increased expenditure, but I believe that the people of this Province will not regret the expenditure.

THE FRANCHISE.

Now, sir, I come to a question which has agitated the people of this Province—that is, the question of the franchise. It is to the Liberal party that the people of this Province look for an extension of the franchise. History has taught us that it is to the Liberal party that the people must look for liberty and freedom. In times past all the great extensions of the franchise have been given by the Liberal party, and may refer to the most recent—the Act giving the franchise a vote. Now, sir, this Liberal Government has promised a further extension of the franchise. What that extension will be those not conversant with it cannot say, and I am sure I cannot say. Some, perhaps, may think it will be household suffrage, and some might be in favour of universal suffrage. Some might argue, and it is worthy of consideration, that there should be only one vote given to each man, and that he should vote where he resides, while some go further, and demand that unmarried women owning property should have a right to vote. I am free to state that I am opposed to giving the franchise to women. The question, however, will be dealt with by this Government in a liberal manner, and whether it is household suffrage, manhood suffrage, or other extension, the liberties of the people will be safe, and the change made in a direction by which the most good may be accomplished. Never yet has a Liberal Government been afraid to trust the people, and never yet has it been said that the Liberal party is afraid to place power in the hands of the people. (Applause.)

THE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM.

It might appear to some people on a casual glance that the question of legislation with respect to education was not of much consequence, but it is one which all must confess appeals more directly to the people of this Province

for there are about 6,000 teachers concerned and over half-a-million children. It affects the teachers, for it has to do with the grade of their certificates, and in fact it ought to appeal directly to every man in this Legislature, because we find that we are called upon to expend a large amount of money. This is expended in the direct interest of the people, and though we may not live to see the immediate results, yet the fruit will be made manifest in the increased intelligence and higher culture of the people. The average attendance is 215,561 in the Public Schools, which is an increase over previous years. In cities the average attendance has been 46 per cent., against 35 the previous year, in towns 59 against 55, and in rural districts 43 per cent. The actual number of teachers employed is 6,011, an increase of 54 over the previous year, while the amount of money expended upon education was \$3,108,430. This is a question which we may take into consideration without exciting party feelings, and doubtless both sides of the House will assist the Minister of Education without desiring to gain any party advantage, so that we may have a perfect measure.

THE COUNTY COURTS.

We are asked to give attention to a Bill to extend the jurisdiction of the County Courts. This will certainly lessen the cost of litigation and relieve the over-burdened judges of the Superior Court.

THE BRIBERY COMMISSION.

A paragraph in the Speech refers to a report of the judges and the evidence taken in the Bribery Commission. I will not anticipate that report, and as I have not heard the evidence, the only remark I am called upon to make are these: I believe that this Legislature did their duty when they appointed that Commission, and I trust that in the future there will be no necessity for the appointment of another Commission. And this brings us to consider the editorial of the "Mail," asking for coalition, asking for the independent men on this side of the House to go with the leader of the Opposition, I would ask whether the demand they make is at all consistent with the course they pursue. The Conservative party have followed out different principles not only in their constituencies but in the courts and the legislative chamber, and yet we are asked to coalesce with men who have derided our leader and stigmatised the Liberals of this Province as traitors. (Cheers.) It seems to be almost too absurd to mention that we have been asked to sink politics while the leader of the Tory party declared that he personally would do all that he could do to overthrow the Mowat Government; that all his strength, all his power, and all his influence, would be exerted in that direction. That every effort, and he did not say what kind of effort, would be directed to defeating the Liberal Government of this Province, and placing power in the hands of the Conservatives now in opposition. And yet they talk of coalition and say there should be no party government. If they really desire that, however, the safest man for a leader would be the present Attorney-General. (Applause.) His measures are just, and in the interests of the Province; his exertions are such as have been to the interests of the whole people of this Province, and his management of the expenditures so faithful and economical that even our opponents have scarcely whispered that they should be lessened. (Applause.) Then let us work for the common interest with decision, and let the Opposition throw down their weapons of warfare and declare that they will support the Administration of the Attorney-General. (Applause.) I have, sir, in conclusion to say that I believe that this Province is on the verge of a great epoch as never has been reached in the past. We have, sir, if we have this support, the support of the Conservatives, a united people, and our energies will be directed entirely to furthering the interests of the people of this Province, and our legislation will be almost perfect.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

We shall be called upon to enact laws for the better government of the new territory which has been gained by the efforts of the Mowat Administration. There is in that land an enlarged field of resources, and unbounded resources for the benefit of the Province's victory, and our opponents' defeat the organ of the Opposition, would deny the fact that it is valuable. If they will only read the opinion of Mr. Dawson, who is most familiar with the natural resources of the district, they will find cause for changing their utterances. He declares it to be so valuable that the building of new Parliament Buildings will be a mere bagatelle, and the Province would have any amount of revenue for all time to come. The Opposition will have the opportunity to rise above party, for I have not the least doubt that the man who said "not one stick of timber, one lump of lead," etc., will attempt to retain for his friends the riches of that country. Since the award has been made by the highest Court in the realm all the advantages accruing from this large territory should immediately come into the hands of this Province, and I ask them when the time comes to rise above party for the sake of their country. I trust that when the time comes there will be no dissenting voice from the demand that we should take up the full benefit arising from the undisputed possession of this large territory. (Applause.) I beg to move that a

humble Address be presented in reply to the Speech from the Throne. (Loud and continued applause.)

THE SECONDER.

Mr. MACAR, in rising to second the Address, was loudly applauded. Before proceeding to speak upon the topics suggested by the Speech from the Throne, he deemed it appropriate that, in view of the early severance of the present relations existing between the Lieutenant-Governor and this Assembly, he should premise his remarks by assuring His Honour that his feeling, expressed in the first part of the Address, was fully reciprocated by this House. We most heartily congratulate His Honour upon the impartiality and dignity he has displayed and the constitutional manner in which he has discharged the high duties pertaining to his position. (Hear, hear.) I also beg leave to express for Mrs. Robinson our high sense of the dignified and courteous manner in which she has dispensed the honours of Government House, and I am sure I have the voice of every member present when I say it is with sincere regret that we view the approach of the expiration of His Honour's term as Lieutenant-Governor. Now, sir, in reference to the Address, I see that in several of the first paragraphs are noticed, in a modest and unassuming way, the results of the investigation by Her Majesty's judicial advisers touching matters of the utmost importance to the best interests of this Province, and, sir, I congratulate the Government on the success they have obtained. Such a confirmation of their views, such a vindication of their policy and of the course they have pursued, such a sweeping victory all along the line of their contention, is something, I think, unparalleled in the history of Provincial or Dominion politics—(Cheers)—and when I consider from a Provincial standpoint the magnitude of the interests involved and the importance of the Provincial rights at stake I feel that the people of this Province owe a debt of gratitude to hon. gentlemen for the course they have pursued. (Loud cheers.)

At this juncture the speaker asked the indulgence of the House as he was ill, and stated that he would defer what further remarks he had to make until some future time.

MR. MEREDITH'S REPLY.

Mr. MEREDITH, on rising, was loudly cheered by his friends. He heartily concurred in all the observations made by the last speaker in regard to the Lieutenant-Governor, and he was quite sure every member of this House would reciprocate the kindly feelings expressed towards them in the Speech. The first speaker had in his judgment made several statements which were not borne out by the records of this Parliament. With regard to the settlement of the Boundary Award, he and every member on that side of the House must concur in the congratulations that the question had become a settled one. He was not there to depreciate the efforts of the leader of the Government so far as they were concerned in the direction of procuring a settlement, but had Mr. Mowat consented to the desire of Sir John Macdonald to refer the matter in the first place to the Privy Council instead of to arbitration it was a question which might have been settled years ago. They had heard members charged with treason to the Province because they preferred a reference of the case to the Privy Council, but these hon. gentlemen forgot that three days after the arbitrators made their decision their leading organ proclaimed that it was not in the interests of the Province that it should accept the land awarded to it. That was before any question had been raised between the two Governments. The Opposition in 1880-1, while the matter was yet undetermined, joined their voice and votes with those of the hon. gentlemen for the purpose of inducing the Dominion Parliament to ratify the award. When they refused then he said, "We are at one with you in maintaining the rights of the Province of Ontario to all its territory, but without the sanction of the Dominion Parliament this award is not valid. Let us then cause the matter to be referred to a tribunal which will be acceptable to all parties." Then they charged us with going back on our record, but the hon. gentlemen opposite were ultimately driven to the course they had advised being taken, and the result now reached might have been arrived at much earlier had they taken that course before. Hon. gentlemen had charged them with taking a position opposed to the interests of the Province at the bidding of the Province of Quebec. While they did not desert their contention for Provincial rights, they advised a course which would avoid heart-burning or discord between the Provinces. Had the views of hon. gentlemen prevailed, what would have been the result? The other Provinces would have felt that it was wrong, and for years it would have embittered the feeling between them, and no one knew where it would end. In these inter-Provincial questions it was of the utmost importance that we should

CONSIDER THE PREJUDICES OF THE PEOPLE.

Then the Opposition declared that the award of the arbitrators was not binding, and the result of the deliberations of the Privy Council had been to confirm that position. Next taking up the Rivers and Streams Bill, he held that there never was a point of constitutional law involved in this case. That bill was an interpretation of the