

little game to get the Dominion Government to challenge it, and thus gain a victory for "the great constitutional lawyer." (Laughter.) When the Act relating to insolvents was passed, an Act which was upon the border line of jurisdiction, the Government proclaimed it promptly—because there was no political

capital to be made out of it. The mover of the Address had made a reference to the N.P. which, notwithstanding their new-born zeal for it was surprising, coming from a member of that party. (Cheers.) The Attorney-General did not screw his courage up to the sticking point of mentioning the N.P. in the speech, but that was accounted for by the fact that the speech of the leader (Hon. Edward Blake) at Malvern was not made until the day after the House met. (Cheers and laughter.) The success of Canada at the great Exhibition was due to the efforts of the Minister of Agriculture and the High Commissioner, and to the liberality of the Dominion Government. There was a passing reference in the Speech to the mineral resources of the country. He thought that as the minerals must take the place of importance now occupied by the timber industry the Government should lay before the House some scheme for

ASSISTING THE DEVELOPMENT

of these resources. He was not in a position, not knowing what legislation would be proposed to speak at length respecting University Federation, but there were complaints made that the amount of money spent upon Common schools was disproportionate to that spent in higher education. The providing of efficient Common schools was pre-eminently the work of the State, and he believed there was room for improvement in this most important work. No reference had been made by either speaker to the Land Titles Act. He believed that the principle involved was correct and that the Act should be extended, but care should be taken to avoid centralisation in Toronto or elsewhere. He apprehended that the paragraph respecting police magistrates had relation to the Scott Act. He approved of means being taken to carry out the Scott Act. He trusted the Attorney-General would state to the House his views as to the duty of the Province in enforcing the Scott Act, as he had been reported as declaring the Province was not in duty bound to enforce it. He believed it was the duty of the Province to enforce this Act. This was in the interest alike of those who favored and those who opposed the principle. He complained that the party supporting the Government changed on these points at the will of the leaders. When Mr. Blake made his Aylmer speech, men who had been calling for immediate Prohibition declared the utterance statesmanlike and just. This was trifling with a great moral issue.

Mr. HARDY—Will the hon. gentleman give his opinion on this great moral issue?

Mr. MEREDITH said he was not bound to express his opinion, but he strongly emphasised what he said respecting the

ENFORCEMENT OF THE SCOTT ACT.

Respecting prison labor he complained that the contracts for the labor of the prisoners were kept back from the House for eighteen months, after which it was impossible to reject them. On the Parliament buildings question he said that the House had voted \$750,000 on the faith that no contracts would be made on a greater scale than that, whereas just before election one contract was made which would cause the expenditure to be increased beyond that limit. This was an act which deserved the censure of the House. Reference ought to have been made to the rea-

sons which led to a dissolution of the House before its ordinary term had expired. The Premier, speaking through his organ, THE GLOBE, had stated that it was on high constitutional grounds he advised dissolution. But in the Reform Club he admitted he did it to strike a blow at the Dominion Government. If they looked up the precedents in the Province, not in Great Britain, they would find that on two former occasions when

THE FRANCHISE WAS EXTENDED

dissolution did not follow. There was one fact which indicated that elections were not contemplated last session—no vote was taken to defray the expenses and the Government needed money for legitimate and perhaps for other expenses. (Laughter.) If the object was for the hon. Premier to help his friends at Ottawa he had failed, and the blow intended for the Dominion Government had fallen upon the Opposition here. The Government here claimed a large majority, but in the 92 Ontario members at Ottawa none would be found who had a minority of votes. The hon. gentleman might yet find that the very cries upon which they had sought to injure the Conservatives would yet hoist them from office. He had borne false witness against the Conservative party in seeking to make it responsible for the No Popery cry. He (Mr. Meredith) had never raised such a cry, and he would not flinch from the position he had taken—insisting upon equal rights for all, the true principle which would ultimately be recognised in this Province. (Loud cheers.)

Hon. Mr. MOWAT concurred in the remarks of previous speakers respecting the first clauses of the Address. He had no doubt that the presence of able French-Canadian members in the House would assist in making the two races know one another better and in promoting that harmony which was essential to the prosperity of the country. It was a gratifying fact that the Queen had been so long spared to rule over this great Empire, and that she was beloved not only in Canada but all over the civilised world. It was the intention of the Government before the close of the session, to ask the House to concur in some special expression of their feelings in regard to that subject. He was glad, too, to see that they all agreed so heartily in regard to His Honor

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

They had never had a governor who showed a more accurate knowledge of his constitutional duties, or who had been more assiduous and courteous in the discharge of his duties. They had always been fortunate in Ontario in having constitutional governors, and this was a matter of the utmost importance to the success of Confederation. Since they were to part with Mr. Robinson, he was glad that Sir Alexander Campbell was to be the new Governor. Sir Alexander Campbell and himself had been fellow-students, and they had been intimate friends ever since, though they had no sort of sympathy politically. They might rely upon it that he would manifest the same attachment to the Constitution and the same devotion to duty as his predecessor had done. The leader of the Opposition had claimed that his party did not raise

THE NO POPERY CRY

during the recent elections. The hon. gentleman could say some surprising things with a steady face—(laughter)—but this was perhaps the most surprising statement of all. It was notorious to everybody that this No Popery cry was raised, that it was used down to the very day of the elections, he might say down to the time of both elections. How were people to decide what the views of a party were? It