

to the proposal to appoint a Minister of Agriculture, he dwelt upon the importance of the farming interest, showing that the capital invested in the farms of the Province was \$975,292,000, the field crops alone reaching the value of \$105,579,000 a year. It was but just to

THIS GREAT INTEREST

that it should have special representation in the Cabinet. While the Government showed this attention to the interest of the farming community, the interests of labor were not forgotten. The proposed amendment of the law for the protection of the young working in retail stores would, he believed, be received with approval by the laboring class and by the people generally. The storekeepers themselves would be glad of it also, because it would enable those to close early who desired to do so without fear of competition which would make their good intentions for those in their employ result in injury to their own business. Satisfactory progress was being made with the Parliament buildings. The new buildings were much needed. The construction of them would show that a round million of dollars could be spent by public officers without a cent of it being misappropriated, and the structure when finished would be a standing testimony of the honesty of the present Government and the Liberal party which supported it. (Cheers.) He moved the adoption of the address and resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

Mr. MCKAY seconded the motion in a speech which was well delivered and well received. He echoed the congratulations expressed by Mr. Stratton on the appointment of Sir Alex. Campbell to the Lieut.-Governorship. Referring to the paragraph in the Speech relating to the University, he dwelt upon the importance of the educational interests of the Province and upon the duty of the Government in relation to higher education, expressing the opinion that the people would heartily support what had been done in relation to the University, and would be glad to know that the policy of the Government, endorsed by the House last session, was being carried into effect with success. One important matter had not been referred to by the mover of the Address—that portion of the Speech relating to the franchise. He was glad to know that in conformity with their policy of extending the franchise as rapidly as public sentiment would justify it, the Government would this session propose that manhood suffrage should be established in the Province. He did not know that the measure would be perfected and placed upon the statute book at this session of the House, there being no special reason to do so. But at least the bill would be introduced this session and would be made the law of the land before the next general election. He did not suppose that the measure would receive any opposition from gentlemen on the Opposition side, but when it passed he hoped they would telegraph their friends in Ottawa that this Province

HAD ADOPTED MANHOOD SUFFRAGE

and suggest to them that they should do the same. (Applause.) He was glad that, acting on the decision of the Supreme Court and relying upon the Privy Council sustaining the finding, the Provincial Government had begun to issue patents on lands the Indian title of which was extinguished after Confederation. He was glad also that an agreement had been arrived at under which legislation would be passed confirming the decision of the Privy Council in relation to the boundary. Ontario would then have the exact territory given her by the award of the arbitrators in the first place. The agreement between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec to refer the matters of account between them to friendly arbitration would lead to the settlement of questions which had long been in dispute. It was a matter of congratulation that the public institutions of the Province had been so ably managed, and especially that the humane policy of caring for the insane had been carried out so faithfully and at such comparatively small expense to the Province. In connection with these asylums some facts brought out by the reports were of the greatest public interest. In the report of the London Asylum, for instance, he found that in the ten years from 1872 to 1881 (in which alcoholic liquors were somewhat extensively used) the deaths were five per cent. In the next five years, during which the use of alcohol was done away with, the deaths were 4.63 per cent. In the first period the recoveries were 39.18 per cent. per annum, while in the subsequent five years the recoveries were 46.05 per annum. The necessity of manual labor on the farm or in the shop was recognised as necessary to the cure of the patients. The City of Toronto having grown over to and beyond the Asylum grounds, and the demand being for more room to accommodate the increasing number of insane, the Government wisely proposed

to establish cottages on the Mimico farm where room could be had to employ the patients with benefit to themselves. He discussed the Inter-Provincial Conference resolutions at some length. He strongly supported the proposition that the veto power over Provincial legislation should be taken away from the Federal authorities. It would be said by gentlemen in the Opposition, doubtless, as had been said in the press which voiced their views, that it was proposed to revert to Downing street rule. But in relation to Dominion laws, the form of veto still laid with the Imperial authorities, and was seldom if ever exercised, and doubtless the same rule would be followed with regard to Provincial legislation. The people themselves should be allowed to judge whether laws were wise or not. (Cheers.) He believed, however, that a tribunal of the character of the Superior Court of the United States, if it could be established, would be useful as securing an impartial interpretation of the Constitution and so prevent encroachments of the Central upon the Provincial power. It was supposed, at the time of Confederation, that the Provinces would be practically represented by the Senate. But this was not the practical result.

THE SENATE REPRESENTED NOBODY

and was responsible to nobody, and as a guardian of Provincial rights had proven itself utterly untrustworthy. (Cheers.) The financial re-arrangement proposed in the resolutions was an exceedingly important matter. At Confederation 20 per cent. of the revenues collected by the Dominion went to the Provinces, but now the amount was only about 13 per cent. But in the meantime the expenses of the Provinces had increased. When this matter came up he trusted it would have the candid and careful consideration of the House aside from party considerations. Dominion Government had arbitrarily

control of a number of local and Provincial works. All knew that the policy of the present Provincial Government in relation to railways was a progressive policy, and one that had done much to lead to the development of the Province by means of railways. But the Dominion Government claimed the power to take control of these works by merely declaring them to be works for the benefit of Canada. This should be changed and a power capable of being thus used should be limited. He contended very strongly that the preparation of the voters' lists for both Provincial and Dominion elections should be in the hands of the Provinces. This had been the law for eighteen or nineteen years and it had been found to work satisfactorily. The Province had power to pass laws relating to bankruptcy, especially when no laws on the subject exist on the Dominion statute book, and it should be made clear that the Dominion House had no veto power over such laws. He believed that the interest of Ontario and of the Dominion at large would be promoted by a judicious revision of the Federal Constitution on those points on which it had been shown to be liable to misconstruction and abuse.

Mr. MEREDITH said he would postpone observations upon some points referred to by other speakers until a later period of the session. He heartily concurred in the congratulations extended to the new Lieutenant-Governor. There could be no better tribute to the benefits of training in the Conservative camp than the high praise given by gentlemen opposite to Sir Alexander Campbell, and this was also a complete answer to the statements which had been made for party purposes in the House and out of it by members of the Government which would have led one who believed them to regard the present Lieutenant-Governor as a traitor to this Province and desirous of depriving her of over 100,000 square miles of territory. He was glad to know that the pessimistic views held by their leaders, the Minister of Education (Mr. Ross) being the first among them to voice the opposite view, were not held by the mover and seconder of the Address. They spoke in a better strain than those who for party purposes sought to decry their country. He did not know what the mover of the Address could mean by the comparison of receipts from

TIMBER LIMIT SALES

in Ontario and in Quebec. The sales there were by public auction just as here. All that this comparison proved was that the limits of Ontario were more valuable than those of Quebec, and these could have no effect except to make the people of Quebec jealous of the greater interest of Ontario. He reiterated the view which had always been expressed by the Opposition that the Government, in relation to those timber limits, acted in contravention of the principles of Responsible Government. They assumed the right to sell at their own pleasure the public property of the Province without consulting this House. The facts abundantly proved that the Gov-