

It is understood the Opposition have resolved upon an inquiry before the Public Accounts Committee in reference to the error of \$14,000 which has been discovered in the Provincial accounts.

**A FORCED APOLOGY:**—The Empire endeavors to make an apology for its untruthful and vindictive criticism of the Treasurer's delivery of the Budget speech. Its apology is as untruthful as the original offence. It makes the unique explanation that it became brutal and vulgar through a misprint. But the whole article was discreditable and was freely condemned by members on both sides of the House. That condemnation has forced the apology. The Treasurer's speech was an able and lucid exposition of the Provincial finances, delivered with ease and fluency. This is the general view of members, irrespective of politics, and the fact that pressure was put upon the organ by its own friends to force a modification of its offence is the Treasurer's best vindication, and is creditable to his opponents.

**MR. BIGGAR'S CONDITION:**—Late advices from North Bruce are that Mr. Biggar is growing worse, and that there is scarcely any hope that he will recover.

**FOR THE NORTH:**—Mr. John Gillies, ex-M.P.P. for North Bruce; Mr. John McIver, of Albemarle; Mr. Walmsley, of Wiaraton; Mr. O'Connor, of South Bruce; Mr. Dack, of Centre Bruce, and Mr. Allan, of West Wellington, had an interview with members of the Government in reference to aid for roads in the Bruce Peninsula. It is represented that in the more thinly settled townships it is impossible to construct all the roads necessary to the development of the district, and that on that ground the municipalities have a sound claim to assistance from the Provincial Treasury. The Ministers promised their best consideration to the representations made.

**HIS FAVORITE ROLE:**—On several occasions during the day Mr. Meredith played his favorite role of congratulating the Government on acting either upon his advice or upon that of the Federal Government. It would be a pity if no good suggestion ever came from his side of the House, and to do him justice, he does not a little in the way of suggesting and improving legislation. It is one of the Mowat Government's chief titles to confidence that it does not reject sound proposals, no matter from what quarter they come, and that it does not antagonise the Federal Government except when it becomes necessary in order to the vindication of Ontario's rights and the protection of Ontario's interests. As to Mr. Meredith's new-found love for arbitration, it hardly comports with his encouragement of Sir John Macdonald in his refusal to ratify the Boundary Award.

**HIGH SCHOOL FEES:**—Hon. G. W. Ross made an important statement during the evening when he intimated that he was in favor of a moderate uniform entrance fee for High school pupils and that he hoped in time public sentiment would justify legislation to that end.

**HIGH v. COMMON SCHOOLS:**—There was an important debate in supply on the question of the expenditure for High schools. Mr. Gibson, of Huron, took the ground that the High schools were for the classes rather than for the masses, and pointed out that the grant for High schools with 15,000 pupils was \$92,000, and for the Common schools with 487,000 pupils was but \$265,000, or that the grant for High schools was equal to \$20 per pupil and for Common schools to less than fifty cents per pupil. Mr. Gibson was supported by Mr. Clancy, and ground hostile to their contention was taken by Hon. G. W. Ross, Mr. Craig, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Waters. They argue that the High schools are doing an important part in educating teachers, upon whom the efficiency of the Common schools depends in a large measure, and that if they were not maintained an additional Normal school for the education of teachers would have to be established. They thus justify the grant to High schools on grounds of economy as well as on the ground that they are an essential part of a free, democratic system of education, in the advantages of which the less well-to-do classes very freely participate, and to whom it is the chief benefit. Mr. Gibson was clearly overborne by weight of argument, but he was not at all convinced that he had not the sounder position in the controversy.

**DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES:**—Mr. Nairn has a bill to amend the Ditches and Watercourses Act, which provides for the covering of drains according to the instructions of the municipal engineer, and providing the covering will not impede or delay the flow of water.

**DOORS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS:**—Mr. Brouson has a bill to amend the Municipal Act by which he proposes to give Municipal Corporations power to regulate the size and number of doors in churches, theatres, halls or other buildings; the size and number of doors, halls, stairs and other means of egress from all hospitals, schools, colleges and other buildings of a like nature, the structure of stairs and stair railings in all such buildings, and the size and strength of walls, beams, joists, rafters, roofs and the supports of all buildings to be erected or repaired within the municipality, and for compelling the production of the plans of all such buildings for inspection and for enforcing the observance of the regulations.

**THE CONFERENCE RECORD:**—There is nothing in the record of the proceedings of the Inter-Provincial Conference distributed to members of the Assembly that has not been given to the public.

**THE PERSECUTED JEW:**—A piece of interesting ancient history has just come to light in the Crown Lands Department. In 1801 lot 8, in concession 2 of Alford Township, was described for patent to Moses Hart, but the patent was impounded to await his proving that he was not a Jew. Mr. G. W. Smith, then acting Surveyor-General and afterward Surveyor-General, had charge of the transaction. Parties now asking for land in Alford Township have described their claim as adjoining the land granted to Hart, and this has led to the discovery that Hart never got the patent and that the property in question was sold for taxes and passed into the possession of other parties.

**MR. CONMEE** has a bill to legalise an agreement between the Corporations of Port Arthur, Shuniah and Neebing; to give to Port Arthur all the powers possessed by towns separated from counties, and to enable Port Arthur, Shuniah and Neebing to charge ten per cent. on arrears of taxes.

**HIRE RECEIPTS:**—Mr. John Leys' bill, respecting hire receipts, provides that any purchaser of land on which are chattels which would pass to the buyer as fixtures but for the operation of a hire receipt, shall take the chattels free from any claim under the receipts except he has had notice of the claim. But registration of the hire receipt shall be held to constitute a sufficient notice to the purchaser. Registration shall be made with the registrar, who may make the same charge as for a deed, and the instrument shall mention the land on which the chattels are placed. The hire receipt, however, shall not prevail against a mortgage except the chattels have been placed on the land with the consent of the mortgagee.

**MR. CLANCY ON SCHOOLS:**—Mr. Balfour gave Mr. Clancy a bad fifteen minutes. The member for West Kent spoke in support of Mr. Gibson's protest against the amount of the grant to High schools as compared with that to Common schools. Mr. Balfour showed how Mr. Clancy was in sympathy with his constituents by reminding him that at its last session the Kent County Council had supplemented the legislative grant by voting \$500 to each of the High schools of the county. Mr. Clancy's attempt to squirm out of the position he had got himself into was amusing, if not quite dignified.