

ping the remainder of the community with the knowledge most useful in their walks in life. Any other system would result in Canada finding herself in the position in which other countries had already found themselves—possessed of a superfluity of educated idlers.

Mr. Smith concluded an able speech, which occupied about forty minutes in delivery, by expressing his satisfaction that the Factory Act, already so excellent in its operations, was, according to the Speech from the Throne, to be still further improved during the session. Mr. Smith then passed a neat little vote of thanks to the House for listening to him so attentively, and sat down.

NORTH YORK.

A GOOD SPEECH BY A NEW MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. E. J. Davis, in rising to second the Address, was received with loud cheers. After a few introductory remarks he called the attention of the House to the splendid mineral exhibit made by Ontario at the recent mineral exposition in the City of Cincinnati. It was creditable to the Province, and cannot fail to attract capitalists from the United States and other countries to assist us in developing the inexhaustible resources of the country. He read to the House the number of specimens exhibited, amounting in all to 4,180. They received the close attention of crowds of visitors, and the Government deserves the thanks of the country for having taken such important steps to advertise the minerals of the Province.

The speaker alluded to the Mining Commission and its work during the last session, stating that much valuable information was gained, which will add to the interest now commenced to be taken in the mineral resources of the country. The work of the commission, he maintained, will enlarge and invigorate our commercial relations, give employment to thousands of laborers and add to the revenue of the country. After in this way speaking of the work carried on by the Government, in aiding by every means the development of the Province, the hon. gentleman came to deal with leading educational questions.

SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE.

He sketched the past history of the School of Practical Science, claiming that, compared with similar institutions in other lands, its buildings and equipment were utterly inadequate. In England and the United States they find it necessary to maintain in proper order such schools, believing, as they do, that skilled labor is requisite to enable their manufacturers to compete with other countries. We spend too little in this country on technical education, when the advantages to labor, manufacturers and the country accruing therefrom are taken into consideration. The speaker did not see why Ontario should be behind any other country in this department of education. (Cheers.) The more skilled labor is the higher the wages received therefrom. It was in the interests of the working classes that the school should be established on a thoroughly satisfactory basis. This was the opinion of the meeting convened by the Minister of Education at the Normal school some weeks ago, the scheme submitted receiving the sanction of all present. The work of the Agricultural College was then reviewed by the member for North York, and he argued that too much attention could not be given by the Government to the subject. He congratulated the Government for their wise policy in appointing a Minister of Agriculture, stating that the farmers are now by their institutes and other meetings beginning to take a great deal of intelligent interest in the

BEST SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE.

The Agricultural College itself was doing marvels for the farmers. He did not think it was a fair argument against the institution to say that it did not pay, inasmuch as it is never expected that any school will yield a cash surplus. Might it not be expected that one man trained there would do more for agriculture in one year than what it would take a farmer ten years on the farm to accomplish. The honorable member told the House how useful the bulletins issued from the college are to farmers, especially in the departments of dairying and cereals. The Bureau of Statistics is also an invaluable department carried on by the Government. He quoted extracts from it to show that the average wages of farm laborers with board is \$157, and without board \$251. He was glad the Government stopped the grant for emigration. This is a splendid Province, and there is no occasion for our young men leaving it for the farms of the United States, where the yield per acre is less than in our own.

Hon. A. M. Ross—Why do they go?

DUTIES OF YOUNG MEN.

The speaker then went on to speak of young men and their duties to the Province. Every young man should have a vote, and he should take an interest in the schools, councils and parliaments of the Province. Then he would especially advise them to look after the Dominion Government, as he did not know any Government that requires such close watching. (Cheers and laughter.) The hon. gentleman then attended to the charge of disloyalty endeavored to be fastened on public men; the epithet Annexationist being freely applied to those who repudiated any such leanings. He believed both parties were loyal, and so far as Annexation was concerned the only avowed Annexationist he ever heard of was a gentleman who held a seat at one time in the House, but never gave a vote to Mr. Mowat or his Government. (Cheers.) The member for North York closed his able and eloquent address by expressing a hope that Ireland would get Home Rule at an early date, as in line with his argument that local were often as important as national interests.

MR. MEREDITH'S REPLY.

THE OPPOSITION LOOKING TO LICENSE AND ASSESSMENT REFORM.

Mr. Meredith rose in his jaunty fashion immediately after the member for North York had resumed his seat, and began his criticism of the Speech by saying that the gentleman who seconded the Address need not have asked the indulgence of the House; it would be a pleasure to listen again to his voice, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would often be heard from. Good-naturedly bantering Mr. Smith, the mover, he turned to his task of picking holes in the Government programme by expressing a sincere wish that the patriotic speeches of members foreshadowed a change of policy by the Government. The recent utterances of the Attorney-General had given a direct slap in the face to those who went about the Province delivering "blue ruin" speeches. Still it was only in spots as yet that the Government was patriotic; soon he hoped they would become so all over.

The mention of Irish affairs in his hon. friend's speech recalled the times when on the floor of the House members of both sides had cheered Home Rule speeches and finished up by singing God Save the Queen. The views expressed by the speakers on the other side in regard to the justice of Home Rule were fully concurred in by gentlemen on the opposite side.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

The conference of Provincial Premiers was next touched upon by the speaker in a light strain and the Government gently reminded of the fact that no mention had been made in the Speech of the schemes discussed at the Quebec meeting. "Where," said the leader of the Opposition, "are all those wide-spreading plans? Dead; dead and buried. It has pleased members on this side that they have been relegated to obscurity." The settlement of the timber dispute, continued the speaker, was as much a matter of satisfaction to the members who opposed the Governmental policy as it could be to any other section of the community. Still the praise given to the Attorney-General was a little to flattering, and the leader of the House, accustomed as he was to such things, hung his head and blushed at the praise bestowed on him. The circumstances attending the settlement of the question had proved that the peaceful policy pursued by the Opposition was the better one. Hon. members on the other side had shaken their gory locks in angry fashion and threatened to take the disputed territory by force. The whole House, he had little doubt, would acquiesce in the hope that the territory gained would add to the greatness and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

In regard to the statement that the newly acquired lands would add materially to the revenues of the Government, he could not share the rosy views of speakers on the opposite side. The duty of

PROVIDING FOR INDIAN CLAIMS

and for the opening up of the country must for many years prevent the possibility of much benefit being derived in the shape of monetary returns from these sources.

Although the Opposition welcomed the raising of Mr. Drury to Cabinet rank they could not grant the necessity for another Minister being added to the Government. It was indeed necessary that agriculture should be represented, but that should have been done rather by the retirement of one of the other Ministers than by the creation of a new office. In regard to the proposed scheme of the Minister of Education for increasing technical knowledge, he could say, although in the

dark as to what the plan might be, that any well-considered proposal to give effect to such an idea would have the cordial support of the Opposition.

Turning from the foreign policy of the Government, which he characterized as somewhat of a Jingo stamp, to the home policy, the speaker hoped that in the multitude of their other designs Ministers would not forget the anomalies and injustices of our assessment system, which was rotten from top to bottom. It was the duty of gentlemen opposite to take up the question and endeavor to ameliorate the present

HARSH CONDITION OF THE LAW.

Another matter of domestic policy which it was necessary to take up was the licensing system. It was a dangerous thing that any trade should depend for its existence on the Government of the day. A grievance of no little importance in connection with the administration of the Act was that the Government had promised when it was passed that commissions would be chosen from both parties, but had soon departed from that agreement and now the License Commissioners were nearly all members of the party in power. He hoped also that during the present session efficient measures would be taken to provide for the large number of insane persons at a greatly reduced cost. Mr. Meredith concluded his remarks by congratulating Mr. Mowat on always having maintained a cheerful and bright demeanor under all circumstances, but despite his blandness the leader of the House, like the Heathen Chinee, could on occasion produce a right-blower from under his sleeve.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—What is a right-blower?

Mr. Meredith—I doubt not if my hon. friend puts his hands in his pockets he may find a right and left there. The addition of another lawyer to the Cabinet of lawyers was Mr. Mowat's last piece of diplomacy.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

HE TAKES UP MR. MEREDITH'S ARGUMENTS ONE BY ONE.

The Attorney-General, on rising for the second time that afternoon to address the House, remarked that Mr. Smith had frequently addressed the House before, and always in an interesting way. His capital speech on the present occasion was one that was admirably calculated to sustain his reputation. As to the seconder of the Address, Mr. Davis, he had been led to expect a good deal from him, but his expectations had really been considerably surpassed. He had no doubt Mr. Davis would speedily become a very valuable member of the House. As to Mr. Smith, he was already a very valuable member of the House. (Applause.) Then, turning to Mr. Meredith, the Premier continued:—

"I believe the hon. gentleman on the other side commenced his remarks with a reference to the exceeding loyalty to the Dominion and the Empire of the hon. gentlemen upon his side of the House. Now, our complaint is that while that party talks very strongly of its loyalty it never takes the proper means of becoming loyal. That while they are all the time talking of their loyalty the policy they are pursuing is

ONE THAT MAKES ANNEXATIONISTS

and creates dissatisfaction. (Applause.) We all, I hope, I feel sure we all on this side of the House, entertain the feelings expressed by the hon. member for North York, and having it we are doing our best to make our country the pride of its people, and to make its people feel that it is a better country than any other, and all we complain of is that gentlemen on the other side adopt a different policy and interfere with our efforts to that purpose."

The Attorney-General then attended to Mr. Meredith's complaint that there was no mention in the Speech from the Throne of the Intercolonial Conference resolutions passed in 1887. "If the hon. gentleman thinks those resolutions are dead," said the Premier energetically, "I tell him he is very much mistaken. He knows there would have been no object in mentioning them in the Speech from the Throne. They were referred to at the last session, and, after they had been debated, they were endorsed by a considerable majority in this House. We have done all we could to have them carried into law; we cannot do more at present. The people have not yet had an opportunity of discussing them, but I promise the hon. gentleman that there shall be ample opportunity of discussing them before another election takes place. (Applause.) He and his party will have to meet us and discuss these resolutions

ON EVERY PUBLIC PLATFORM in the Dominion. And we are not at all