

afraid of the result. (Applause.) We are perfectly satisfied that they are in the interest of the whole Dominion. Why, with regard to half of them, you had nothing to say against them. Your opposition was confined to something less than half of them. So far was the general sentiment of the people from being opposed to the amendments proposed, that I am convinced if we had no party in this matter the whole population would go for them." (Applause.)

It had been hoped, continued the Premier, that all parties would unite to remove the defects in the constitution. The Quebec Conference, as he had pointed out before, was not a party affair. There were some Conservatives there, and some Reformers. Sir John Macdonald himself had received an invitation to be present. The only desire of the Government in the matter was to have defects remedied in the Constitution. They had not made it or wished to make it a party affair, but since the Opposition had done this, it must be fought out before the electors, and "we mean to do it" wound up the Premier, amid a burst of hearty cheers from his followers. The Attorney-General then touched on

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

Mr. Meredith, he pointed out, had defined the Government's policy as a jingo policy. It was not so; the jingoism was on the other side. Had they all forgotten the time when Sir John Macdonald said that he would "compel" them to give up their rights? Had they forgotten when he sent an army from Manitoba to take possession of the country and drive out the Ontario officers? "We resisted successfully," said Mr. Mowat, "and now the Privy Council, says we resisted correctly." (Applause.)

As soon as the proprietorship of the land was settled, the Dominion Government claimed the ownership of the timbers and minerals included in it, and insisted on the matter being dragged through another slow process of litigation, until finally the highest court was reached and a declaration again given in Ontario's favor.

"What we especially object to," continued Mr. Mowat, "is that the hon. gentleman and his party throw aside all pretence of justice in the dispute. It was only technical law that was against us, and the hon. gentleman took the side of technical law against justice to his own Province. There is no doubt that, had the Conservative representatives of the people in this House

JOINED WITH US

in insisting that we should have our full territory and the mines and forests within our boundaries, Sir John Macdonald would not have attempted to deprive the Province of its rights. The trouble arose because hon. gentlemen opposite would not assist the Province." (Applause.)

Then Mr. Mowat met Mr. Meredith's criticism as to the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture. He admitted that the hon. gentleman had last session taken the position that the work of the Minister of Agriculture should be assigned to some other member of the Cabinet—and a very absurd position it was. It was totally untenable, for it was utterly impossible that the duties of an additional department could have been divided up and distributed to men who were already doing many times over the amount of work which fell to the lot of the members of the same Cabinet in the days of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald. The only way in which any additional attention could have been given to agriculture was by the addition of a new Minister altogether, and that step was approved of by the House last year and acted upon during the recess.

TURNING TO THE LICENSE QUESTION,

Mr. Mowat remarked that Mr. Meredith had said a good deal on this subject. "What I say in regard to it," said he, "is that it is very like most other large systems. It is not altogether free from evil. The hon. gentleman has been too long in public life not to know that a law dealing with a great question like that of licenses or any other of a similar character can hardly be prepared without having in it some little flaw. But the licensing system at present in force in Ontario"—and the Premier spoke here very emphatically—"is infinitely superior to any other scheme in force in this country or in any other country, and is far superior to anything that is proposed to be substituted for it. (Applause.) If there are some evils incidentally arising out of it, my reply is, not that I am surprised at there being so many, but that I wonder at there being so few."

It was said, continued the Attorney-Gen-

eral, by those who had been lately raising an agitation in connection with the license question, that the Conservative license-holders were in a state of terror at the time and were in constant jeopardy of losing their licenses. If this were so, it was an odd fact that there were at the present time

FAR MORE CONSERVATIVE LICENSEES than there were Reform licensees. If the commissioners exercised their power so arbitrarily and unjustly as was claimed, how was it that they did not refuse licenses to Conservatives and give them to Reformers? The truth was, that everybody who was refused a license became a bitter enemy of the commissioners and a bitter enemy of the Government, and went and poured out his story to a certain newspaper. In this way and a variety of other ways, the handling of the licenses was a matter that affected the Government unfavorably, and, taken altogether, the handling of the licenses, viewed from a party standpoint, was rather a disadvantage than otherwise to the Government, though those who were conducting this agitation thought, or pretended to think, otherwise. The Government took over the license department unwillingly. The hon. gentleman says we took it for a political purpose. It was not so. It was urged upon the Government by the Temperance people, and was not taken over immediately upon being so urged, the Government feeling that there were great disadvantages connected with it, and it was not taken over until it had been repeatedly urged upon them by deputations and otherwise.

The Premier wound up by referring briefly to Mr. Meredith's final criticism concerning the arrangements for the accommodation of the insane of the Province. He pointed out that the Government were doing all they could to provide suitable accommodation and otherwise to care for these unfortunates, and there being no further arguments to controvert he quietly sat down, only to rise a moment later at half-past five o'clock to move the adjournment of the House.