

MR. M'KECHNIE'S SPEECH.

Mr. McKechnie, member for South Grey, in rising to second the motion was loudly applauded. He dwelt at some length on the fine appointments of the new building, which he had spent some time in inspecting, and congratulated the government on the rapidly-approaching completion of the various sections of the work. He paid a graceful compliment to the leader of the opposition, who, he said, had given valuable assistance to the government in placing wise and carefully-considered laws upon the statute books of the province. As the leader of the government, the province was honored in having a man of great attainments, whose name was a household word, and who was firmly entrenched in the affections of the people. (Applause.) Their honored leader had recently passed through a great bereavement, in which he had the sympathy of the entire community. When they considered the many good acts which Sir Oliver Mowat had placed upon the statute books, and his valiant defence of rights of the province, they could come to no other conclusion but that he had accomplished a noble work. Reference had been made to the harvest. The country had enjoyed a fair average harvest, and they had reason to be thankful to the giver of all good for His bounty. He pointed out the desirability of farmers abandoning wheat-growing in favor of mixed farming and live stock. The accession of the Democratic party to power in the United States was, he considered, favorable to the farmers of this country, and there was a general expectation that before the season opened the scheduling of Canadian cattle would be withdrawn, and prices for our cattle go up in consequence.

MR. DRYDEN'S DEPARTMENT.

The proposition to afford a means whereby the teachers of the province would be enabled to become better acquainted with agricultural topics was a good one. Of the teachers of the province 5 per cent. were engaged in rural districts, where a practical knowledge of improved methods of farming would be of great advantage. The dairy school, opened during the past year, was also a step in the right direction. Twenty years ago the dairy interests of Norway and Sweden were in an undeveloped state, but the judicious aid given by the government had placed their products in the first rank, the exports of butter alone from those countries now amounting to \$12,000,000 annually. He had no doubt but that ere long the butter of Ontario would be raised to the same high standard. The cheese exports from Canada brought a return of \$9,000,000, and in this department the province occupied a leading and honorable position.

The hon. commissioner of public works, he said, deserved the very warm thanks of every member for the ability and care he had exercised in the erection of the handsome building in which they were assembled, and his services would long be remembered by the province. The old buildings had served their purpose, but all would admit that they had outlived their usefulness and that a better building, more in keeping with the dignity of the province, was for some time past a necessity. He was in full sympathy with the proposed legislation making better provision for the care of neglected children. There was no doubt but that the neglect of this class meant a constant increase of the criminal population, while untold good might be accomplished by timely supervision of the neglected little ones who were to be found in all large centres of population.

MR. MEREDITH.

Mr. Meredith was greeted by loud opposition applause as he arose to speak. He began by expressing his concurrence in the felicitations indulged in by Mr. Allan in regard to the appointment of the new lieutenant-governor. It was an appointment which he was sure would be popular amongst all classes of the people of the Province of Ontario. He was glad to notice that the gentleman who had been selected to fill the high office was evincing a great interest in the affairs of the province by visiting the different portions of it and bringing himself into contact with the people of the country. It was important to the

province and equally important to the lieutenant-governor himself that he should be brought more into direct contact with the people in order that they might see and feel that he was an important and necessary piece of the machinery of our governmental institution. He agreed with the felicitations which had been echoed by the hon. gentleman who had followed the hon. gentleman who moved the address upon the beautiful chamber in which they were met, and generally upon the character of the building which was now inaugurated. While there might be differences of opinion as to the architectural features of some portions of the building, upon the whole they might say that all classes will be satisfied that it was substantial, commodious and adequate to meet the present and future demands of the province. While they could not follow the hon. gentlemen in all their laudations and commendations in reference to the construction of the buildings and management of the commissioner of public works; while they could not overlook circumstances under which one of our own architects, and a citizen of this country, was excluded from the honor of erecting the pile, which would stand for generations in the province, and while they could not overlook, and must call attention to the circumstances under which the people were induced to enter upon the expenditure necessary to the construction of the building, they could go to a certain extent with the hon. gentlemen in saying that if the expenditure could be brought within the limits that they said it could there could not be much fault found in the construction of the building. It was a source of great gratification that the commissioner of public works under whose direction these buildings had been erected was able to be in his place in the house, restored to comparatively good health and able to take part in the discussions. They upon the opposition side of the house admired his fighting qualities and the manner in which he conducted the debates of the house, and they were glad therefore to see him back. He was glad to notice one little circumstance that to his mind was like the robin, the harbinger of spring, to the political hope of the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house. For many years they had been sitting in the old house without any accommodation for the leader of the left side of the house, but now an excellent room had been provided for him, and in this he saw the foresight and wisdom of the commissioner of public works. It seemed that in the near future the hon. gentleman must come to occupy the position in which he (Mr. Meredith) had so long sat, and he had provided a place where he could spend some of his leisure hours while on the opposition side of the house. He was glad to see in the speech from the throne the emphasis which was given to the great progress which the province of Ontario had made, although, with that becoming modesty which sat upon their brows, the hon. gentlemen opposite had claimed that this state of affairs was due to their efforts. There was no doubt that they could make a retrospect, which

was a matter of great satisfaction. It was important, looking upon every branch of the public service to see that there was justification for the position taken by the hon. gentleman who had addressed the house that no province of the Dominion and no state of the union stood in a higher position than did the province of Ontario to-day. And it would be well if not only upon an occasion like this, when they were rejoicing in the inauguration of the new building and in the first year of the second century of responsible government in Ontario, but upon all occasions instead of taking a course which too often for political purposes was taken the hustings, they should take this view of the position which the province occupied. It was all very well to fight about matters upon which they might fairly divide, but under all circumstances the fair fame of Canada should be sacred. Were the Hon. gentlemen's observations justified by facts? With our judicial system, our legislative system, the freest system of government in existence, under which every man of 21 had the right to cast his ballot and take part in the ad-