

in the matter. Seven years ago he had introduced it, and since then it had remained quiet until now, but even now he proposed to give the institution three years longer. If the house was unnecessary it should be stopped at once. They should not wait three years to do so. The hon. member had not shown that there was any feeling for the change he proposed. He had been a good deal over the Province during the last 25 years and had found no strong remonstrances against the existence of Government House. The question was not one that was much discussed. What the Government proposed was that the question should be brought clearly and definitely before the people, should be discussed in all its bearings, and whatever verdict the people gave on the question should be as quickly as possible acted on by the House.

The present attitude of the Conservative party, said Mr. Ross, was characteristic of it. Everything that tended to the greatness of the Province, territorially or otherwise, that tended to hold up the dignity and powers of the Assembly in any way, had always been fought keenly by the Opposition. The numerous contests in the courts as to the legislative powers of the Assembly were proofs of the constant attempts of Mr. Meredith's followers to belittle the Province, while the successive victories of the Attorney-General and the Liberal party, the last of them that of yesterday, when the Supreme Court declared that the Lieutenant-Governor had the power of pardoning vested in him, were substantial proofs that the Legislature was one of great and far-reaching powers, and not a County Council, as some people were apt to profess to consider it. Mr. Ross closed by saying that practice and precedent were alike opposed to the proposal of the hon. member for Muskoka, and inasmuch as that hon. gentleman had neither succeeded in showing that the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor was unnecessary nor that the people of the Province were desirous of ceasing to maintain the expenditure in connection with it, he intended to support the amendment to the amendment. (Ministerial applause.)

THE P. P. A. MEMBER.

Mr. McCallum, the recently-elected member for East Lambton, followed Mr. Ross, this being his first effort in the House. Mr. McCallum spoke of himself as a representative of the farming class, a worthy class, he said, but one that was not just now in a very flourishing condition. He thought it safe to say that farming lands had depreciated in value by 40 per cent. during the past ten years. At such a time as the present, therefore, it was natural to look wherever a saving could be accomplished. The present motion offered an opportunity for economy which he thought hon. members should avail themselves of. He would willingly vote for a resolution which proposed an immediate abolition of the Lieutenant-Governor's house, such as the Minister of Education had said Mr. Marter should have brought in; but in the absence of such a motion for immediate abolition he was going to vote for the motion of the member for Muskoka. Mr. McCallum ran over the items constituting the \$23,000 devoted to the maintenance of Government House last year, and remarked that it was a large increase on the expenditure of the previous year and one that could not be defended on any reasonable ground, especially in such a time of depression as the present. For himself, while he was going to vote for the present resolution, and would vote, as he said, for a resolution for immediate abolition if he had had any opportunity, he would go a good deal further still and would vote for the abolition of the office of the Lieutenant-Governor as well as his residence, believing that the people of Ontario could very well get along without such an officer. Mr. McCallum said there were some other subjects on which he trusted to address the House during the session, and closed by expressing his conviction that the discussion and vote on this and other questions now before the country would have the effect of considerably increasing the number of independent members like himself who would be found in the next House.

DR. WILLOUGHBY.

Dr. Willoughby said he was going to support the motion. He was surprised at the attitude of the Government, who professed to be the farmers' friends, refusing to adopt such a measure of economy as the motion proposed. He thought the people of the country would very strongly express their disapproval of their course when they came to discuss it with them. The position of the Government, he said, was anything but a courageous one. Dr. Willoughby said he had voted for Mr. Marter's motion in 1887, and would support it again now. He had not changed his mind on the matter, but if he had changed his mind there would have been no disgrace attached to it. He thought some members of the Cabinet had changed their mind lately on some important questions.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands, for instance, had recently, in a speech in public, avowed himself a prohibitionist.

Hon. Mr. Hardy—I did not say I had changed my mind, though.

Dr. Willoughby closed his remarks by expressing the gratification it gave him to support Mr. Marter's motion.

MR. A. F. CAMPBELL.

Mr. A. F. Campbell said he thought the dignity of the Province could very well be sustained without the provision of a house for the Lieutenant-Governor. That was a curious argument to come from the Minister of Education. There was every reason, he thought, for the exercise of the strictest economy in regard to the expenditure of the Province. There was a possibility that a few years from now the revenue of \$300,000 or so now annually received from licenses might cease. There was a likelihood, too, that the revenue from the timber resources of the Province might fall off, and in various ways there were indications that the income of the Province would seriously decrease within a few years. It behoved them, therefore, to exercise economy wherever it was possible to do so; and this was an opportunity for doing so. The Minister of Education had said there were many precedents in various parts of the Dominion. Well, he did not know that Ontario had any particular need of a precedent. We were as far advanced here as any people anywhere. Ontario dispensed with an upper chamber in the Legislature. There was no precedent, at least not many precedents, for that. If Ontario could take the initiative for one thing it could do so in another. Mr. Ross had said that we could not set to work and abolish all things that were unnecessary. He had mentioned the coat-of-arms over the Speaker's chair as something not absolutely necessary, which, however, it would not be expedient to abolish. Mr. Ross had in a similar manner instanced the British flag. On this point he would at least say this: that the Minister of Education was at any rate prepared to abolish the teaching of English history in Public Schools, only the order he had sent out from the department to that effect was very quickly cancelled because of the indignation that had been aroused.

Hon. Mr. Ross denied that the circumstances were as Mr. Campbell stated. The order issued had been simply a modification of the existing rules on the subject.

Mr. Campbell, continuing, closed his speech by declaring his conviction that if the people of Ontario expressed their disinclination to grant funds for the maintenance of Government House, the Dominion Government would not venture to use its authority to reimpose such a burden on the Province.

MR. MARTER SUMS UP.

Mr. Marter spoke briefly before the vote was taken, defending himself against some of the remarks made in the debate. When he first stood for election he had been horrified at the expenditure upon Government House, had made an issue of it at his election, and had pledged himself to do all in his power to abolish the establishment. He had then brought forward the motion, and it had been beaten. The present was a suitable time, for it was a few years before the expiry of the term of the Lieutenant-Governor, and would give a fair warning to his successor. It was only honest and fair to continue the emoluments which had been promised the Lieutenant-Governor, and to give fair warning to the next incumbent. As for some other remarks made, why had not those opposite who were possessed of a zeal for reform moved resolutions themselves? All curtailments of expenses were initiated by the Opposition, and fought out in face of the professed economists. The people's eyes would be opened to the hollowness of the professions of economy of the Liberals. There would be ample notice given to the next Lieutenant-Governor, and, in any case, there was always the chance that death might step in; the death of Sir Alex. Campbell had taken place during a recess. His resolution, he thought, went far enough, and no reference could be made to the action of the Dominion until the Dominion chose to act. He did not charge the Lieutenant-Governor with extravagance; all the extravagance committed must be visited on the heads of the Government, who alone were responsible. Mr. Marter then referred to the speech of Hon. Mr. Ross, holding that the \$15,700 interest on the \$314,000 which the land was worth would not pay for the maintenance. The remark about the new house was a warning to the country that if the Government was returned to power there would be a grand mansion to pay for. There were other unnecessary items in addition to those Mr. Ross had mentioned. For instance, there was \$1,800 for that book of poems, which was a result of the Minister's visit to England.

Hon. Mr. Ross, interposing, stated that