

any such motive. Dr. Ryerson had not ventured to make the charge plainly. The expression had been omitted advisedly. It was better left out. The history had not been removed from the schools; it had never been proposed to do more than remove it from examination and to teach it orally. History could be taught in a more picturesque and more effective manner in this way. Dr. Ryerson had referred to various things as not being taught in the British history which were contained in it. It showed he had not read it any more than he had read the readers. He challenged him to say that he had. He ventured, further, to say that the hon. gentleman knew very little himself about these points of British history that he had quoted. As to the "Book of Poems" which he had published, and which Dr. Ryerson suggested had been printed at the public expense, Mr. Ross observed that it was just like the hon. gentleman to insinuate such a charge and refrain from boldly stating it. Why had he not examined the public accounts and discovered whether there was any ground for the insinuation or not? Dr. Ryerson was like the Spaniard. He preferred to thrust his stiletto in the dark. The "Book of Poems" in question was not printed at the public expense. Dr. Ryerson could accept that statement or not as he pleased. As to the contents of the book at which Dr. Ryerson had sneered so much, he supposed in this case also the hon. gentleman had not read any portion of it. He could assure him, however, that it included selections from many of the very best among Canadian writers. Personally, Mr. Ross said, he made no pretence to literary skill, but he did claim to be a loyal, honest and sincere Canadian. As to the charge that he silenced his critics by buying them, he challenged Dr. Ryerson to tell the gentlemen whom he had named that they had been bought, and that the Minister of Education knew their price. It was extraordinary how successful he had been in his purchase, how cheap they had been, according to Dr. Ryerson. All these gentlemen had been selected because of their special qualifications for the work for which they were designated. The hon. gentleman had been the first man to rise in the House and attack the reputations of the High School masters. Mr. Ross concluded his speech by recapitulating his arguments, and urging particularly that Dr. Ryerson had spoken with an altogether insufficient acquaintance with the facts.

Mr. Meredith replied briefly, but in a very warm speech. He said the Government side of the House had frequently shown a disposition to chafe severely under Dr. Ryerson's criticisms. That hon. gentleman usually succeeded in touching a sore spot. That was the reason. They were particularly hurt at Dr. Ryerson's references to the nepotism of the members of the Government. There was a great contrast between members of the Liberal party to-day and those of years gone by, when they used to condemn just such practices on the part of the Langevins and others in the Province of Quebec as they now practised themselves. Members of the Opposition had seen all session the trembling of hon. gentlemen who supported the Government, said Mr. Meredith. A thing that alarmed them very much was the organization of the Patrons of Industry, an association which had organized itself expressly to combat the extravagances and misgovernment of the Administration. Then there was the P.P.A. The Attorney-General had announced explicitly that he courted the opposition of this body, but this did not prevent him from pulling the strings of the member for Algoma and in this way seek to conciliate this body. Hon. gentlemen were very much afraid of the people just now. Mr. Meredith said Mr. Ross had not replied to Dr. Ryerson's charges at all, though he had said a great deal. He mentioned particularly that he had not referred to Dr. Ryerson's charge that Mr. Ross had withheld the letter of Mr. Gage in the documents regarding the text-book matter brought down in response to an order of the House, a breach of faith on the part of the Minister of the Crown, he said, which was of itself sufficient to prevent the House having confidence in him. He concluded by saying he would make no predictions as to the result of the coming elections, but there were signs that the people were becoming tired of the way the affairs of the Province had been managed by the present Administration, and hon. gentlemen might well dread to meet the electorate.

The Attorney-General, rising at eight minutes to 6, said there was very little in Mr. Meredith's speech that required an answer. He would not have risen at all, but that he was anxious to inquire from Mr. Meredith when he made the statement that he courted the opposition of the P.P.A. organization.

Mr. Meredith—At Temperance Hall in your speech there.

The Attorney-General said he had never said anything of the kind, and had never seen any report to the effect that he had

said it. It was contrary to his nature to court the opposition of any organization. He was inclined to think that somebody must have told the hon. gentleman this, and he had not troubled to verify it. He did not think he could have seen any report to this effect himself. His other statements of fact were something like this. He was threatening the Government with the opposition of the Patrons at the next election. Now the Patrons were refusing to be considered as allies of the hon. gentlemen opposite. The Patron lodges would be broken up if it were supposed they were based on an alliance with the Provincial Opposition. Large numbers of Patrons avowed their intention to support the Reform party, and this number was increasing. He emphatically denied that the organization had been created because of the opposition to the Reform party. Of the thirteen or fourteen planks of their platform nearly all of them were opposed, not to the policy of the Provincial Government, but to the policy of the hon. gentlemen's friends at Ottawa. There was absolutely no doubt about this. The words were there. If they were now talking in some places against the Government it was because the organization included Conservatives as well as Liberals. He did not know what disturbance the Patrons would make in the coming elections, but he hoped not much. The indications at the present time were that whatever hostility on the part of the Patrons to the Government had existed it was now passing away. Mr. Meredith said members of the Government side of the House had been on pins and needles all session. He had not discovered it, but he had noticed it in regard to the Opposition. The leader of the Opposition particularly appeared to have been on pins and needles this session more than during any previous session since he had been in the House. It was noticeable that the Minister of Education had been the chief object of attack. He (the Attorney-General) knew why. It was because of his strength, because of the general recognition through the country that his administration had been successful. They therefore feared that the result would be strength to the Liberal party. It was a compliment to the Minister that he had been attacked. He would come out of it as successfully as in the past, and the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, the Attorney-General predicted, would be as unsuccessful as during the past twenty years. (Loud applause.)

In reply to Mr. Meredith, Mr. Ross rose for a moment to say that he did not remember the letter written by Mr. Gage, and referred to in the debate, but he would inquire and learn if there was such a document and if it had been omitted as stated.

The motion of Dr. Ryerson was then carried.

It being 6 o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

#### AFTER RECESS.

After recess the House took up routine business. Some discussion took place in committee on Mr. Garrow's bill respecting writs of execution.

The order paper was then run through until the Government orders were reached and the House then went into committee on the Queen Victoria and Niagara Falls Park bill, which went through with trifling amendments.

The Attorney-General's bill to facilitate the administration of justice in certain cases was read a second time after some discussion. Mr. Meredith and Mr. Whitney commended the principle of the bill, but criticized it in detail. It provides for sittings of the High Court of Justice at Ottawa and London at least one day each week, save during vacation. The Attorney-General explained that he had brought in the bill in response to representations from the cities named.

The House then went into supply on the estimates for maintenance of public institutions. There was some criticism of the items for the Brantford Blind Asylum, the method of tuition, etc.

The items of various other departments were passed until the heading miscellaneous was reached. Mr. Meredith, in connection with an item, here asked if some difficulty had not occurred in connection with the succession duties act. He understood proceedings had been commenced against the heirs of certain estates for evading the law, which had since been dropped. Mr. Harcourt said no serious difficulty had arisen, but it was proposed to amend some of its sections at a subsequent session. The committee arose about 11 o'clock and the House adjourned.