

...were free from disease, and the famous calf was still alive and fair to survive the public usefulness of many of its assailants. (Laughter.) Mr. McNish fully echoed Mr. Craig's remarks regarding the extension of the new registration of voters' lists system to the rural districts. Where it had been tried it had worked satisfactorily, he said, and he would be glad if the Government could see its way to extend the act to the rural districts. After a reference to law reform, Mr. McNish discussed the fee system, remarking that whatever was done should be to increase the people's confidence in the administration of justice, and that this question really fell under that head. While the country did not wish to give a princely remuneration to the officials, yet it was to their interest to pay a sum which would make them independent of outside influence. A short reference to the Government House question concluded an ably expressed speech.

MR. MARTER'S MAIDEN EFFORT.

Mr. Marter was applauded by his little band of followers as he arose to make his maiden speech in the House as leader of the Opposition. He began by congratulating the mover and seconder of the address upon the able and efficient manner in which they had discharged the duty entrusted to them.

After a feeling reference and a high tribute to the late Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Marter went on to discuss the Patrons of Industry, whose presence in the House, he said, "was a protest against the extravagance of the Government opposite. There are seventeen men here who have protested against the extravagance of the Government in the past, and I hope it will make the Government more careful in the expenditure of the people's money than they have been. The first paragraph of the address starts out with a reference to the low price of grain. I do not think that can be attributed to the fault of anybody in the Province of Ontario. The great market is the market of the world. It regulates the price, and if the price is low in Great Britain the trouble does not lie with this country. While the price may be low, the yield is good, but we do not hear a word about that; and I think I am safe in saying that the general prosperity of the Dominion of Canada, and especially of the Province of Ontario, is greater to-day than that of any other country under the sun. See the fine farm houses all over the Province, the occupants of which are a very fortunate people. The farm buildings have increased in value during the past year. Farmers have been prosperous; they have paid better wages to their farm hands than in former years. Take, again, as another evidence of their prosperity, the statements of the investment companies doing business in this Province. We find that farmers' mortgages have been well paid—better paid than in many years in the past. They have more money to-day than they have found outlet for. Instead of finding fault, I think it would have been more becoming if the men in this House would say, "We are indeed a fortunate people and have been very liberally dealt with." We all rejoice at the improved methods of agriculture, and we will give to the country, and not to the country only but to the House generally, every assistance in furthering this improvement. Every man on this side of the House has been only too glad to assist in bettering the condition of the farmers of this land. But, sir, all the good is not attributable to the Ontario Government only. I think it would have been more becoming to have acknowledged that the Dominion Government have also done much for the farmers in encouraging their cheese, butter and dairy interests. I am sure we are glad to hear that there has been one successful year at the Agricultural College, the first one on record. I am prejudiced sometimes; and I think I shall wait before pronouncing it a great success until we get the report. It is possible there may be something in that which will banish this very fine idea which has been given to us.

Mr. Marter denied that the Government could take credit for the settlement of the northern districts. The Government's land policy was of a most illiberal character. As to the Experimental Farm, his comment on that would be simply "Conmee." (Laughter.) He was glad to hear of the discovery of gold in Rainy River, but could not congratulate the Government on the liber-

BY an inadvertence in the report of debate on the address, Hon. Mr. Ross was represented as saying that he "did not speak on temperance in London." The context makes it plain that it should have read that he did speak on temperance.

ality of its mining policy. He understood that the management of the diamond drill purchased last session even had not been a success. Mr. Marter touched briefly on the registration of voters act, for the satisfactory working of which he claimed some credit to the Opposition. He expressed his sympathy with the law reform agitation, but refrained from discussing the proposals of the Government. Mr. Marter then proceeded to discuss the liquor question as follows:—

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

"Now, sir, I come to the point in regard to the question referred to the Privy Council—the question of prohibition. We all know the great state of feeling that has been aroused on the part of the people in regard to this question. We all remember the many petitions that came to this House asking for a plebiscite. We all remember that that plebiscite was taken, and that a great majority in favor of prohibition was the result. In framing that measure there was inserted a clause to the effect that a vote given would mean that you were in favor of such prohibition as it was in the power of this Government to give. Sir Oliver Mowat, in making his promise that he would give prohibition if he had the power to do so, made a safe promise. I do not believe that he ever thought that he had the power to stop the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquor. We, on this side of the House, thought we had the power to stop the retail sale of liquor. That question has been decided against us. What has been done by the Government to aid the cause of prohibition or temperance? The question has been successfully dodged for twenty odd years. Eighteen or twenty years ago the Minister of Education dodged a motion for prohibition in the House of Commons. The Government have borne a deaf ear to all the petitions of the temperance people. I have a letter of Rev. Dr. McKay, a constituent of the Attorney-General, in which he says that he is perfectly satisfied with the position taken by Sir Oliver Mowat, but he was sorry that he could not say so much for his party. It was humiliating, he said, to see Reform conventions, and so many of the Reform candidates cringing before the liquor vote."

Mr. Ross—What is his opinion of the Conservative party?

Mr. Marter—I will leave you to bring that out, and if you succeed you will be doing better than you did in behalf of the temperance cause in London.

Mr. Ross—The hon. gentleman is mistaken, because I did not speak in behalf of the temperance cause.

Mr. Marter—The Globe does not say so.

Mr. Ross—The hon. gentleman should read The Globe and The London Advertiser.

Mr. Marter—The men who helped to bring about our defeat in London were the liquor men and the liquor force brought from Hamilton. It was not a creditable victory; it was one which should bring to their faces the blush of shame. (Cries of "Oh! oh!")

Mr. Marter expressed the desire that the matters brought before the Legislature would be dealt with from a business and not a political point of view, complained because of the delay in the presentation of the report of the Fees Commission, condemned the payment of officials by fees, claimed that he had been consistent in his position upon the Government House question, expressed his pleasure at learning that advancement had been made in the settlement of the accounts of the Province and the Dominion, congratulated the Government upon the fact that the expenditures had been well within bounds, and indulged in the hope that they would conduct the business of the session as sensible, honorable men, striving to arrive at such a solution of the questions as would be in the best interests of the people of the country.

THE PREMIER.

Sir Oliver Mowat was greeted with vigorous applause from the Government benches as he arose to reply. He said:

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted with the last sentences which the hon. member has expressed. I am delighted to hear that, for the future, hon. gentlemen are not going to address themselves in a party spirit to matters that come before them in this House. That is another matter in which my hon. friend has turned over a new leaf. (Laughter.) Up to the last time we had any discussion on public questions there was no partyism more intense than the party-