

the decisions given in various cases affecting the rights of this Province and the Federal Government, but I will not permit me to touch on any of these questions. But the fact that additions have been made during the past year to the long series of successes achieved by the Provincial Government, in some cases at least over the unjustifiable aggressions of Federal authority, ought to be cause for general satisfaction. There is no fear in this country of a weak Federal or central authority, as there was in the Union in the early history of that republic, and where the constitution was in this regard the very antithesis of our own. But it is of infinite importance that the rights given and granted to the Provinces in the Confederation act should not only be clearly defined, but that they should be held inviolate. We now realize the eminent services rendered in this direction by Sir Oliver Mowat, ably assisted as he was during all these years by the present leader of this House. We now see what he won for Ontario in a single year over the territory now called "New Ontario." But while the great benefits of the struggle in that case are clear to everyone, they are, perhaps, not greater than the result in some of what may be called the minor disputes, in which our rights have been upheld before the highest tribunals. In this long series of constitutional victories lies perhaps Sir Oliver Mowat's highest claim to enduring fame and to the everlasting gratitude of his countrymen. For it was essential to the stability and the very existence of Confederation that the rights and privileges of the Provincial and Federal Governments should be clearly and justly determined. Without such just consideration and protection of the rights of the Provinces by the Privy Council it is quite certain that the Provinces would not have remained in the union.

And this, Mr. Speaker, brings me naturally to the last subject on which I shall make a remark, and which I regard as the most important that is likely to engage the attention of this Legislature for some years to come. It is some time since we have, thanks, as I have said, to Sir Oliver Mowat, added enormously to our territory. This addition has brought with it new opportunities for our people, with new duties and new responsibilities. It is only during the past year or so that the general public have begun to realize either the nature or the extent of the resources of this great new northwest of ours, known as New Ontario. To describe it in figures or distances would convey very little impression either of its size or its value. But when I say that some of the older Provinces could be put up there and lost sight of, that it is larger than several wealthy States of the Union, that countries in Europe that have attracted the attention of the world and exerted a lasting influence on the world's history would not equal one of its districts, the mind may form some conception of that new part of the Province of Ontario, of which very little was known until lately, but which is now attracting the attention of the world. I should be very unjust if I said that members of this House have not realized our responsibilities and opportunities in New Ontario, or that they had not been alive to the necessity of developing its resources. Those who say so should remember that it is not many years since we won the battle for its possession. In the second place, it is only a short time since, through important mineral discoveries, its possibilities were known. But now that we do know the value of our new possession we would be recreant to our trust if any time were lost or any effort spared to fill the northern country with a hardy population, and to assist them in developing its enormous resources, thus adding, as we may, to the wealth and population not only of the Province but of the Dominion.

I have already referred to the fact that on the accession of the new Premier to office the agricultural prospects of the country have greatly improved. I shall not enter into any discussion as to cause or effect. You may remember some twenty years ago a very lively discussion agitated the political world of Canada as to which political party was responsible for the advent of the Colorado beetle. So fierce and protracted was the contention that the witty and brilliant Governor-General at the time suggested that it might be necessary for him to act as umpire and give a decision. And since that

time you have heard similar discussions in reference to the potato bug, the midge, and the origin of all the ills that the farmer especially is heir to. I am not sure whether this tendency among politicians to assume the functions of Providence is not a little objectionable. But the leader of this House is evidently modest. He has not assumed omniscience, nor presented himself to the country as a Father Bountiful. Were he to do so in this connection he might, however, produce arguments in favor of a direct connection between our reviving prosperity and his accession to office, (and also to certain other political events not unpleasant to him), which hon. gentlemen opposite might at least find very great difficulty in refuting. Now, sir, I am not going to claim for the new Premier, before he makes the claim for himself, that it just required his accession to office to raise the price of wheat and cheese, and to start this wondrous development in northern Ontario, all of which is creating confidence and eager hopes of prosperity all over this country. I shall not say that it was he or any of his political friends who put either the nickel or the gold or the silver or the coal or any other of the minerals up there, and which now constitute for us such great wealth, or who drew the curtain and revealed to us the golden vision of this wealth at the right time. But I would almost have been afraid that if some other gentleman had been in his place they would have made such a claim to the country. And they might have got themselves to believe it to such an extent as to feel themselves the owners of all this wealth in fee simple, with the right to dispose of it among their party followers. Of course I do not refer to anyone in this chamber. I do not propose to be either a special pleader for political parties as the representatives on earth for the time being of Providence, nor the imitator of those who are. Still I may be permitted to congratulate the leader of this House on coming into office at a time when gloom throughout the Province and throughout the country is being dispelled by hope and by signs of abounding prosperity. These signs of the times are happy omens for him. He has been a successful and, if you will permit me, a lucky statesman in the past. And in politics, as in other matters, there may be such a thing as luck. It is something to be able to say of a man that he has always been successful, that good luck follows his footsteps. May we not say this of the present head of the Government, and honestly feel that with the opportunity which he now has of developing this country, and of benefiting all classes therein, his old-time luck or success, good fortune or genius, as you please to put it, will not fail him?

#### THE NEW ONTARIO.

Now, gentlemen, I am not here to frame a policy for the Government, and I am quite sure I do not know what their policy is to be beyond the indications in his Honor's address. I have never felt myself under the divine afflatus of Governmental inspiration. What I say I speak absolutely from an independent standpoint—and modestly, I hope, as a new member of this House. But I am strongly of opinion that the great work, the supreme duty, of this Government and of this House for years to come is in connection with New Ontario. We hear a good deal in some quarters about a new policy, and many new policies. But, although intensely in earnest on this subject, looking at what has been done in the short time there has been to do anything, it strikes me that it is not so much a new policy that we want as a rapid and continuous development and extension of what we have already been doing. There is ample evidence that the members of the Government fully realize their responsibilities. Several of them at least are personally acquainted with northern Ontario, and have taken the keenest interest in it for many years past. Now, what should we expect of them in the future? For years past my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture has been telling people all over this country that there were splendid tracts of agricultural land in this great region to the north, that there was not only good land, but all the fortunate accessories to good land—plenty of timber, good water, a good climate. And he has accomplished a good deal. A few years ago, when he located a pioneer farm up at Waubigoon, to which reference is very properly made, he was not only criticized, but laughed at, perhaps by some of his friends as