

made mistakes; I think that Sir Oliver Mowat would have had little hesitation in admitting that he had sometimes in public affairs made mistakes. This, however, may not be the time or the occasion on which a friendly critic, although a political opponent, should enter into a detailed criticism of the events of his rule in this Province. We on this side of the House have to thank him for oftentimes adopting the views and measures advocated by us and putting them into law. We have to thank him, and the whole country should thank him, for having so promptly stamped out the annexation propaganda that a few young and irresponsible chatterers on the outskirts of his own party were attempting to bring forth into the world a few years ago. I know of no occasion on which a public man did an act fraught with greater consequences in a more distinct, positive, successful and conclusive manner, and the country has a right to be thankful to Sir Oliver Mowat for it. I am prepared to say that I believe his influence upon the whole has been good and that the country has been better for his life."

Mr. Whitney expressed his pleasure at seeing the Commissioner of Public Works back in his seat and indulged in the hope that his health would soon be completely restored. Then he went on:—

"I want to congratulate the First Minister of this Province, and for many reasons I hesitated, very markedly as far as my own sensations are concerned, in choosing the proper words in which to do so. I might say, however, that my hon. friend deserves his promotion; for length of service, for experience, for industry and for ability he deserves his promotion. From that point of view I have no hesitation in saying that the party which sits behind him has done well in choosing him for that position. During my public life—for the past ten or twelve years—our relations have been of the most cordial description possible, and I think it is one of the most pleasurable sensations that while hon. gentlemen may disagree very materially on public questions, it is possible at the same time to maintain those cordial relations in private life which should exist between political opponents. To-day, owing to the circumstances, I feel that I am almost debarred from the duty of criticizing my hon. friend, and I am glad of it because it falls in line with my inclination. As far as to-day is concerned I will confine myself entirely to congratulations, which are thoroughly cordial on my part. I will to-day adopt the suaviter in modo; perhaps in future I may adopt the fortiter in re. I am glad that my hon. friend has been able to attend to the high position which he now holds, even for the short time that he will hold it."

NATIVE CANADIAN PREMIERS.

Mr. Whitney rejoiced with Mr. Pattullo that the Prime Minister was a native Canadian, but he was not the first native Canadian who had had the office of Premier. There were Baldwin, Macdonald, Thompson, Abbott, Taché, Cartier, Lafontaine, Chapleau, Laurier, Blake and Mowat. He expressed his agreement with the remarks of Mr. Pattullo in relation to the jubilee of our Majesty. Whatever action the Government might take in reference to the proper celebration of the jubilee could no doubt meet with the approbation of the House as well as of the people of the country. Regarding the mining law, Mr. Whitney said that the most careful consideration should be given to the interests and needs of the mining industry—not only consideration, but careful observation might be necessary in order to arrive at a correct conclusion. When a correct conclusion had been arrived at the Government should feel free to extend to the mining industry every possible opportunity and encouragement within the bounds of reason. But he was not prepared at the present moment to state in detail just what provisions should be adopted by the Government.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATION.

In regard to Toronto University Mr. Whitney said that the people of Ontario had a high regard and respect for Toronto University; it occupied a warm place in their hearts, and they did not propose to do anything to injure or hamper it in its career of usefulness, but there were a great many, and their number was constantly increasing, who believed that the in-

fluence of the Government on the industry had had a bad effect, and that that influence was partly responsible for the unfortunate condition in which it now was. The people would deal with no niggard hand with the minority, but they would object to burying more money in that bottomless pit, where it could not be found. The Government must expect to be held to strict account in regard to their dealings with Toronto University. Mr. Whitney made a plea for better facilities for education in the Public Schools of the Province, and he quoted Mr. Pattullo as saying at his first campaign meeting in North Oxford that he thought the scope of education in the Public Schools used to be better than now. Mr. Pattullo had said that he believed in keeping up the standard of the Public Schools to a higher capacity, and he thought there were too many High Schools. It seemed to him (Mr. Pattullo) that in the towns and cities they had been forcing higher education. If they could save a little on higher education they could afford to give more to the Public Schools. Mr. Whitney declared that a more concise and condensed indictment and arraignment of the policy of the Minister of Education could not have been got into the columns of a newspaper. Now, Mr. Pattullo, instead of enunciating his ideas, had devoted his hour and time to telling the House that there was no Government like this under the sun. If the Government did not pay attention to the demand for further educational facilities in the Public Schools, the people would visit upon them their condemnation, and there would be no doubt that the Premier, for whom he had individually a high regard, would have a short reign as leader of his party.

THE PATRON LEADER.

Felicitations to the Speaker on His Election—The County Councils Bill Approved—Canadian Loyalty.

Mr. Haycock heartily congratulated the Speaker upon his election to that position. The only thing in connection with it which anyone could regret was the unfortunate cause of his occupying the position. He paid a high tribute to the late hon. member who occupied the chair. When the Patrons first entered the House without any Parliamentary experience at all they had no kinder friend than the late Speaker of this House. It was not necessary for him to add one word to what had already been said with regard to his true manliness and honor. There were many things in this country of which we boasted. Sometimes it was the fertility of our soil, sometimes of our forest wealth, and lately we had heard a great deal of our mineral wealth. He did not know that we should be so proud of these things, they were gifts of nature for which we were not responsible; but we could be proud of the fact that our ancestors came into this country when it was a wilderness and transformed it into the brightest gem in the British crown. But if there was one thing more than another of which we might be proud it was that we had that broad-minded, liberal spirit which was shown in this House yesterday and of which the Speaker's election was an evidence, which proclaimed that any man in this Province who proved himself worthy could aspire to any position in the gift of the people without regard to nationality or creed. He was pleased to learn that the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario was recovering. He had been a personal friend of the Lieut.-Governor since his boyhood, they were natives of the same place, and he could unite in every word that had been said in regard to him. He also agreed with what had been said by the leader of the Opposition on the retirement of Sir Oliver Mowat and the elevation to the Premiership of Hon. Mr. Hardy. He also congratulated Hon. Mr. Davis upon his appointment to the Secretaryship. He did not wish to add anything to the high encomiums pronounced upon these gentlemen, because if all of these testimonies to the nobility and great purity of these gentlemen were sent abroad the people on the other side of the line might envy us and think that we had some kind of supernatural beings here. He did not propose to go into the speech, because it would be as unreasonable to criticize the legislation foreshadowed in it as it would be to criticize a book after reading the preface. When that legislation