

was fully laid before them it would be the time to criticize it. He must, however, refer to the statement of the leader of the Opposition that he had discussed the County Councils bill with thousands of people and did not meet one who approved of it.

Mr. Whitney—I did not say thousands, I said hundreds.

Mr. Haycock accepted the correction and proceeded to say that he had dis-

cussed the bill with his colleagues and they approved of it and it was approved of in his county. The most frequent criticism of it which he had heard was that it was not radical enough and that there should be one representative instead of two. Some amendments to it might be required during the session, but on the whole it was satisfactory. He agreed with what the leader of the Opposition had said with reference to Public Schools and also with what Mr. Pattullo had said before his election. (Laughter.) He must have been a Patron then. It was a very important question, too much so for him to deal with in the limited time at his disposal. There were several other very important matters in connection with the address. We were all proud as Canadian citizens that we had reached the century year of our legislative existence. Looking back over our history we might be proud of our political progress. We were a united and loyal people, for whatever might be said upon the hustings for political purposes he did not believe that there was any party in this country which seriously questioned the loyalty of any other party, and he believed that should any danger threaten the old flag which had braved so long the battle and the breeze there would be a cohesion of all parties rallying around that old flag in its protection.

#### THE PREMIER CONCLUDES.

#### Mr. Hardy Winds Up the Debate With a Bright and Vigorous Speech.

Vigorous applause greeted the Premier when he arose to speak. It was almost 6 o'clock, but it was agreed that the House should sit beyond that hour to give him an opportunity of concluding the debate.

Mr. Hardy expressed his gratitude for the forbearance which had been exercised towards the address, and for the many kind things that had been said. It would save calling the House together again to discuss it unless some of the members opposite desired to speak upon it, and he had had information that they did not desire to discuss it further. If so, he could call the House together for an evening session.

No member offered to speak, and Mr. Hardy thereupon said that he would be enabled to make his remarks very brief. He was bound to say that the speeches of the mover and seconder of the address were very creditable to themselves, to their constituents and to the House. He did not call to mind a more extended, elaborate and finished address than that of the mover, or one more practical than that of the seconder, during the 24 years for which he had been in the House. These two gentlemen were valuable acquisitions to the House for their debating power as well as for their executive ability. There was no greater task to which this Legislature could set itself than that of carrying out the promises which Mr. Pattullo had held out referring to the development of what was called the New Ontario. He wished to congratulate the leader of the Opposition and to offer him very sincerely his thanks for his kind and friendly words. There was no one in the House for whom he had personally a more sincere regard. He passed on to the other leader in the House (Mr. Haycock), the senior of them both, the only leader who was not new in the House. He would not call him the Nestor of the leaders in the House, because he was too young for that, but nevertheless he remained the leader of his own party, and the party remained as it was; there had been no change in it. Mr. Hardy hoped that Mr. Haycock would long continue to fill the honorable position he occupied as leader of his party in the House. Mr. Hardy paid a warm tribute of regard to the Lieutenant-Governor, who, he said, had filled the gubernatorial office with general acceptance. He expressed the hope that his Honor would soon be restored to his former health and vigor. His absence, the Premier said, gave an opportunity for the selection of one of Toronto's most estimable citizens, a

great Canadian, though of foreign birth, a man who had made numberless friends, who had never made an enemy, a man who stood as high in the country generally as he did in the estimation of the Imperial authorities and of her Majesty personally. Sir Casimir Gzowski had afforded the Government at Ottawa an opportunity to appoint him Administrator, though he had not been in their sympathies politically. He had not been a very active politician in late years, but whatever his politics were there was a universal assent as to the propriety of the appointment and of his fitness to exercise the functions of government during the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Hardy made a feeling allusion to the loss which the House had sustained in the death of the late Mr. Balfour, endorsing everything that had been said in regard to his late colleague. Mr. Hardy then made allusion to what had been said in regard to the success which had attended the Province in its legal contests with the Dominion. Sir Oliver Mowat's success before the Privy Council and in the courts of law, he said, was achieved because he was right, because he took a right view of public and of legal questions. He (Mr. Hardy) was sorry that he could not agree with the opinion expressed by Mr. Whitney that practically it did not matter whether rights which the constitution had conferred upon this House and the Dominion Parliament respectively were exercised, irrespective of the true merits, by the House at Ottawa or by the Ontario Legislature. It was not characteristic of a free people and of an independent House to yield one jot or tittle of their freedom or of their rights of property or individual liberty that was conferred upon them by the constitution, and it was a degenerating people that would yield its rights, no matter whether it were from motives of friendship, fear or hostility. Every Province, county and township should assert its rights under the constitution, for that was the only fair and just way in which Confederation could be carried out successfully, in which the equipoise and equilibrium could be preserved and by which they should prevent confusion and chaos from taking the place of constitutional administration of the affairs of this country. For that reason Sir Oliver Mowat was to be complimented upon his success. His success was unparalleled in any country by any one man that he (Mr. Hardy) could remember. He could call to mind no great man as a jurist or a law-maker, neither in the Dominion nor in the neighboring States, whose opinions had been so universally or so invariably upheld as those of Sir Oliver Mowat. There had not been a single defeat. Sir John Macdonald used to say before Confederation that his views of constitutional questions were always right. When Sir John Macdonald made the statement that his opinions of constitutional questions had always been maintained, he could make it safely, because then there was no tribunal of test, but it was only when there was a tribunal to which these questions could be referred, and which was final, that they found exactly where the constitutional right in the judgments of men was reposed, whether it was in the mind of that most distinguished Canadian, Sir John Macdonald, or whether it was to be found in the great ability, painstaking, studious and laborious life, mind and judgment of Sir Oliver Mowat. It was the duty of the Government to lay these things before the House in the address, but they might have added others. They might have referred to the decision recently given by the Court of Appeal, in which it was held that the legislation of the House and the power of the Government were absolute in relation to the appointment of Queen's counsel in the Provincial courts. But there was something behind it. The decision was founded on something infinitely more important, because it touched the very foundations of the rights of the Province—the name of her Majesty. It was founded upon that case recently decided by the Privy Council, which held that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province directly represented her Majesty, and that the Legislature, in legislating in the name of the Queen, exercised as much authority as the Imperial Parliament or the Imperial Government.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE SPEECH.

Mr. Hardy said that he was pleased with the distinguished courtesy of the leader of the Opposition in not finding serious fault with the speech from