

and said that he (Mr. Whitney) offered no remedy, but it was the duty of the Minister to suggest the remedy. In 1895 and he thought again last year he offered an amendment along the same lines, and to the effect that a scheme should be devised to afford the children in the agricultural districts such higher education as could be got in the Public Schools. The Minister of Education said that his motion was principally platitudes, but the result of it was to give the country, against the will of the Minister of Education, the continuation classes in the Public Schools. Mr. Whitney complained that there was very great expense in connection with the examinations in the Public Schools, and attacked the Educational Council. He said the Educational Council had to appoint the exact examiners nominated by Mr. Ross, and he had heard that on one occasion the members of the Council asked for more names and the Minister gave them one more name. Mr. Whitney added that he had no positive knowledge of this statement, which, for all he knew, might be a pure fiction. He also attacked the Teachers' Institutes, declaring that the teachers were muzzled when they met in this way by the presence of the Director of the Teachers' Institutes. Mr. Whitney charged Mr. Hardy with making statements at London and Owen Sound which were not in keeping with the duty of a man in his position, and concluded one of the strongest speeches heard from the Opposition this session by again referring to the "heeler" question, quoting an editorial from The Globe condemning the interference of officials in elections. "All honor to that party organ," he said, "for the manner in which it has exposed the cancer to which I have been alluding, and it behoves the people of Canada to act on these noble words published in The Globe and make it impossible for any official to take part in elections."

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Ross, after congratulating Mr. Whitney upon his selection as leader of the Opposition, referred to Mr. Hardy's speeches at Owen Sound and London, which he said, were perfectly legitimate. He pointed out that Mr. Whitney, who was so sensitive about Mr. Hardy's speeches, supported Sir Charles Tupper, who openly promised at Winnipeg to build the Hudson Bay Railway. As to the interference of officials in elections, he called attention to the fact that in Mr. Whitney's own riding a customs officer had been nominated for Parliamentary honors; but Mr. Whitney had nothing to say of that. His arguments recoiled upon himself. Mr. Ross said that he did not believe in either Dominion or Provincial officials interfering in elections—the sooner the civil service of this country recognized that it was a civil service of the whole people and not of one party or another the better. The Government that could not sustain itself without the assistance of its officials perambulating from end to end of the country did not deserve to be in power.

Mr. Ross said that the increased expenditure was admitted, but surely Mr. Whitney did not maintain that the public expenditure should still be upon the same scale as it was in John Sandfield Macdonald's time. The growth of the country had called for an increase in public institutions, with consequent increase in expenditure. There had been an increase in the expenditure of municipal institutions of two or three fold. There was a necessity for a reasonable expenditure in order to keep up with the times and the demands of the people. He compared the increase with that of the Ottawa Government, which had grown from \$23,000,000 in 1878 to \$40,000,000 in the last year of their rule, for some purposes not so easily justified as the expenditure of the Ontario Government. Coming to his own department, he refuted the charge of too many examinations, and said that nothing was suggested to take their places. They prevailed in every educational institution and in every country. Since 1875 the number of examinations in the educational system had been reduced by 23, leaving only ten now in force, which would be still further reduced to eight. A pupil could go through the whole public course without submitting himself to a single examination, and could prepare himself for the University with only one examination, at his entrance to the High School. Mr. Whitney had said that he controlled the examiners. Mr. Ross stated that the list submitted to the Educational

Council by the department was intended to contain twice as many names as were to be appointed, but his rule had been to send in to the Council a list of every person known to him qualified to serve, and they had probably had three or four times as many names as they were required to appoint. The list to which Mr. Whitney had referred was one which had not been prepared by the department at all. It was the same list which had been approved by the joint Board of Examiners the year before, and he had thought that as they had served only one term they might be appointed again. Additional names were sent in, and in nearly every case the names were duplicated. The list was not prepared by him at all. As to the charge of centralization, Mr. Ross showed that since Dr. Ryerson's time there had been a decrease of centralization. Even in the Provinces where they had not a Minister of Education, there was a central power in charge of the examinations. The cost of the examinations to the pupils had been criticized, but the entrance fee was only one dollar, while that in the civil service was \$3 43, in medicine \$6 03, in law \$6 77, and so on. In 1895 there had been a loss to the department of \$2,598 on the examinations. As to the cost of text-books Mr. Ross showed in Toronto where there were free text-books, the cost was only seventeen cents per pupil, or, including scribblers, etc., 47 cents. In Massachusetts the cost was \$1 62 per head and Minnesota 95 cents. The cost of machinery had been criticized, but it was not a well-founded criticism, as the price of inspection per school had not been increased since 1875, and there were now only two instead of three High School inspectors, and for civil government the expense last year was only \$729 more than it was 22 years ago, and if he was able to carry out his intentions the cost for this year would be even less than that for 1875. The Public Schools were not neglected. Where agriculture was not taught it was because there was not a feeling in favor of it in the district. The establishment of High Schools was in all cases due to the action of County Councils. Mr. Ross deplored Mr. Howland's criticism of the University, and pointed with pride to the high position taken by the graduates of the University in the colleges of Europe and the States. The charge had been made that technical education had been neglected. When he took charge of the department there was only one art school in the Province; last year there were 68, and the number of pupils had increased from 124 to 4,356. The number of boys in the Technical Schools was now 45,898. In 1883 there were 93 Public Libraries, in 1897 there were 356, circulating 1,917,365 volumes. Thirteen years ago 64 per cent. of the reading of the people of Ontario was fiction; now the percentage of fiction was down to 48 per cent., thus showing a larger appreciation of the better class of books. The effect of this upon the people could not be over-estimated. He was satisfied that the effect of the system had been to elevate the plane of public intelligence and improve public morality. He had heard it said that the education system had had the effect of driving our boys from the farm. No system of education could determine a boy's future career. The boy must determine himself what his career shall be, in spite of any system of education. He did not believe that the school system had driven the boys from the farm. There were various reasons why the urban population had increased and the rural population had decreased. Farming was now less profitable than it had been a few years ago. Less labor was required, and the opportunities for industrial employment had increased. The increase in urban population had not been greater in Ontario than elsewhere. During the last twenty years it was in Ontario from 19 to 35 per cent.; Quebec, 19 to 29 per cent.; Nova Scotia, 14 to 21 per cent.; British Columbia, 8 to 42 per cent.; Prince Edward Island, 11 to 13 per cent. In New Brunswick the urban population had decreased from 24 to 19 per cent. The increase in the Dominion had been from 18 to 28 per cent. In the last decade the increase was 33 1-3 per cent., as against 16 1-2 per cent. during the previous decade. There were sociological changes going on in the world which we might as well try to intercept by any process which the House could set in motion as Mrs. Partington could try to beat back the tides with her broom. It could not be