

taxation could be levied? The statement had been made by hon. gentlemen at Mitchell that the expenditure had been increased \$690,000 yearly.

Col. Matheson interrupted to state that the report was incorrect, that the statement was that they had increased the expenditure by \$690,000 during the last ten years.

Mr. Stratton said he was quoting from *The Globe*, whereat there was some laughter from the Opposition benches, but Mr. Stratton reminded hon. gentlemen opposite that they had been indebted to no paper in the Province more than to *The Globe* for its very fair and full reports of their meetings, and that fact had been admitted at Norwood. Hon. gentlemen, he continued, had not told the electors that the expenditure had been decreasing year by year. The attacks upon the Minister of Education had, Mr. Stratton said, been undeserved, and he pointed with pride to the splendid system of education, which is second to none, and under which the cost of text-books is less than under the regime of Dr. Ryerson. The new County Councils act had been a success and had brought about a reduction in the cost in the County of Peterboro', and similar results could be produced in other counties. The complaints of hon. gentlemen opposite concerning the mining law had not been well founded. It could not be expected that a mining law prepared and brought down at one session would be acceptable to all the people of the Province and be without defect. But it was a good law and had been productive of increased activity and aroused greater hopefulness in the mining industry. The criticisms by the Opposition of the Engledue deal were shown to be unfounded, and the advantages to the Province of the development of the resources of the Province were shown. With respect to the timber question hon. gentlemen opposite wanted the Government to deal with a question of vast importance and extent, and involving millions of dollars' worth of property, without due consideration, and had not given the Government credit for having passed the order in Council requiring lumbermen to purchase their supplies in Canada and employ Canadian workmen. Neither had they given the Attorney-General credit for the action he had taken when Commissioner of Crown Lands in amending the regulations with the object of preserving our resources and protecting Canadian workmen.

Changing Their Policy.

In conclusion he reminded hon. gentlemen opposite that although they might wish it, the electors would not forget their record in the past. During the last two or three general elections their action had been strange and peculiar, and their changes of base of operation had a commercial side to it. They had expected by changing their base that they might possibly reach the Government side of the House. They had created the "Marmion" agitation in an endeavor to stir up religious prejudice. At the next election hon. gentlemen had the "Ross Bible" agitation; then the hon. gentlemen allied themselves with the P.P.A. This might be denied by hon. gentlemen, but the leader of the Opposition took advantage of that cry, and when it raged around him he said not a word to calm the

storm and to show his sympathy with the minority of the Province. On the other hand, he joined in that cry and endeavored to obtain the benefit of victory from the meanest cry that was ever used in an election. He challenged hon. gentlemen to be consistent. If the opposition to the Ross Bible was founded upon truth why did they not raise that cry now? If the schools were too friendly to the Catholics before, then they are too friendly now and they should be fighting along these lines now, for truth is eternal. Hon. gentlemen opposite, many of them, could, if they would speak, tell of the advantage they received from the P.P.A. movement in the last election, but they were dumb as oysters now.

Mr. Stratton, who had been frequently applauded, upon resuming his seat received congratulations from his friends on the Government side of the House upon having made a capital speech, in which public questions were reviewed with great ability.

Dr. Meacham.

Dr. Meacham took the floor after recess. Discussing the reasons advanced by the Government for calling the session two months before the regular time, he said that this course would give the Government three months to go about the country making statements for which there would be no opportunity of bringing them to account before the election. If the charges of the Conservatives had been incorrect in

some respects, the assertions of the Government would be far wilder than anything that had been heard if they had three months for campaigning purposes during the interval between the session and the election. Dr. Meacham expressed the belief that no one would be foolish enough to say that the resources of the Province were about exhausted. This remark must have been confined to the timber resources. No one professed to believe that the subsidy from the Dominion Government would decline—

Mr. Hardy—No one but your leader.

Dr. Meacham—But when you read the speeches of the Treasurers of the Province you see that it actually has decreased since this Government has been in power. Dr. Meacham proceeded to demonstrate that the Government, being unable to meet their current expenses out of ordinary revenue, had pushed the sale of the timber resources to such an extent that a decreased income from this source was inevitable. He characterized the statement of the Premier that the policy of the Opposition meant direct taxation as the acme of rashness. He condemned the Government for having so long delayed the project of reforestation. Had the scheme been undertaken 25 years ago it might have been of some material advantage to the Province. Dr. Meacham would not undertake to say that the Michigan lumbermen were received in secret, but he dare not say it was not a secret meeting. He challenged the statement of the Premier on the platform that out of 25 years of power the Liberal Government had had a surplus in nineteen years. He asserted that there had been eight years of surpluses and