

the University of Toronto. He had, so far, claimed the credit of originating the idea of separating the University of Toronto from Government control, but this idea was suggested and urged upon him by men who are occupying high positions in the University of Toronto, and who, so far as his knowledge went, every man of those who approached him were friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. If he was not misinformed, a similar suggestion was conveyed to the hon. gentlemen last January that separation was desirable. Gentlemen connected with the University, of Provincial prominence, had told him so, and he had no other ground for making these statements than what the gentlemen referred to had told him.

Two years ago he had moved a resolution, which had been rejected, stating that the Public Schools should receive a larger share of the public grants, and that their educational sphere should be widened, so as to make them more useful to the agricultural and industrial community. He was a friend of the High School, and of higher education, but the Public School was a substantive institution, intended for the education of the children of the poorer classes, and it should afford them an opportunity for attaining sufficient education to fit them for their future lot in life. Instead of this being its aim, it was made the forcing-house of higher education. Mr. Whitney said that, though not the only advocate of this change of system, he was the first. At first the Ministerialists accused him of talking platitudes. But the teachers at their convention had favored the suggestion, and then the Minister's attitude became one of respectful consideration. Later on the Minister took a step leading to the formation of continuation classes. Mr. Whitney denied the Minister any credit for this move, as it was the result of the agitation he had begun.

The Opposition leader was at some pains to repudiate any connection with Sir Charles Tupper in the formation of a policy for this Province. He said that he had consulted Sir Charles Tupper eight or ten years ago on a matter of business. He had never seen him from that day until within twelve months ago. He had never spoken to him more than three times in his life, and Sir Charles Tupper had never dreamed of interfering with himself (Mr. Whitney) or any other member of the Opposition in regard to their policy. The suggestion he characterized as a deliberate insult to him.

The Patron Leader.

Mr. Haycock, the Patron leader, rose at a few minutes before 11 o'clock. His purpose, he said, in speaking was to justify a statement he previously made, that the ordinary people of the Province had no means of getting at a fair understanding of the expenditure as shown in the public accounts. He took up the statement of Mr. Harcourt that Mr. Foster at Ottawa had advocated a compression of the Auditor-General's report, and reminded him of the omission to state the reason for the ex-Finance Minister's proposal. He did not want the expenditure of the late Government to be exposed to the light any more than was

necessary. Mr. Haycock called as witnesses in support of the wisdom of presenting the public accounts in the greatest possible detail consistent with convenience and economy Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Louis Davies, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The late Dominion Opposition used the Auditor-General's report with more effect than perhaps any other weapon in their possession. Mr. McMullen had almost slept with the volume as a pillow. Mr. Haycock held that a fuller account should be given. He brought another matter to the attention of the House. Mr. Whitney was reported by The Kingston News as having said in Frontenac that a great deal of money which had been appropriated for colonization roads had gone into the pockets of Government supporters. Mr. Whitney had read several instances of the kind in connection with the construction of bridges. He had mentioned the case of Mr. Wickett as a straight case of robbery. Mr. Wickett had stopped it for the reason that a convicted criminal stopped, because he had been found out. When statements of that kind were made, Mr. Haycock said, they should be backed up by evidence in the country. He should demand an investigation into the matter, and if it were proven he (Mr. Haycock) would vote want of confidence in the Government.

The Premier.

It was late when the Premier rose to wind up the debate, and after midnight when he concluded. His speech was one of exceptional vigor, and a complete reply to all the criticisms worthy of notice which had been advanced by the Opposition.

The House went into Committee of Supply pro forma and passed one item.

To Pay a Railway Bonus.

The Private Bills Committee of the Legislature met to-day and agreed to report the bill of Mr. McNaughton authorizing the township of Amabel to issue debentures to the amount of \$21,800, to pay the outstanding debentures shortly to fall due of the \$43,000 issued in 1878 and 1879 in aid of the Stratford & Huron Railway.

Oxford Toll Roads.

The law provides that when a County Council desires to take over toll roads from private owners the amount of the compensation must be fixed by a board of arbitration. In addition to this, there is under the act a toll roads commissioner whose duties enable it to form a conclusion as to the value of the property under its supervision. The Oxford Council proposes to take over the toll roads in that county, and being anxious that a fair valuation shall be arrived at inexpensively and expeditiously it prefers that the price to be paid the owners shall be fixed by the commission without reference to other arbitrators. A deputation, composed of Warden Kaufman, Councillors M. T. Buchanan of Ingersoll, E. W. Nesbitt of Woodstock and Mr. T. H. Noxon of Ingersoll, waited upon the Government to-day to ask that such a change be made in the law as will enable the commissioners to act in the capacity of arbitrators. Mr. Noxon, who is a large holder of toll