

Works Department. He felt sure that the hon. Minister of Public Works would not continue to hold an office for which there was no necessity, and went on to say that to-day there was no earthly use for the existence of the department. Three or four men attached to any other department of the Government could readily do all the necessary work. Thus the trumpeted retrenchment was entirely neutralized by the fact that the hon. gentlemen had not gone as far as they might have, and done away with this useless department altogether.

The School Law.

Mr. Whitney went on to refer to the proposed amendment to the school law. They did not know how it was to be amended, but they did know that there was much room for amendment. (Opposition applause.) The people of the Province understood it, and so the Government had decided "to get down out of the tree," as the Opposition had recommended them to do. He hinted that the Minister of Education was taking time by the forelock, and the Government was about to steal the policy of the Opposition on education, just as it stole his proposed amendment to the registry law. In this connection he quoted from Globe editorials for the purpose of showing that not only the sentiment but the very language of his speeches on education had been put to editorial use by that paper. Continuing, Mr. Whitney referred to the anticipated loss of revenue alluded to in the address from the throne. They had, he said, been led to believe that the Province was in a state of unexampled prosperity, and it had been made use of in every election during the past ten years. He heard that his hon. friends on the Treasury benches intended to put a tax on financial institutions, loan companies and banks, and so on, to make up the loss. He admitted that he had no reason to make the statement, excepting that it was very common rumor, but he hinted that rumor sometimes struck within speaking distance of the truth. If the statement in regard to revenue was so, he he'd the Government could no longer point to the Province of Quebec as an example where the financial condition of the country was worse than that of Ontario.

A Terrible Blunder.

Continuing, Mr. Whitney said that it seemed his Honor had been advised to say that he found it necessary to prorogue the House after the conclusion of the sitting in August last. It was strange his hon. friend did not advise his Honor to take the House into his confidence as to the reason why prorogation was found to be necessary. They had heard from the hon. gentleman who moved the address in reply that hon. gentlemen opposite were endeavoring to shoulder the responsibility for the terrible blundering of last session upon both sides of the House. (Hear, hear.) That would not do. The hon. gentleman is young in political life, but he will find out that people in this House and out of it cannot have their cake and eat it, too. Hon. gentlemen could not control legislation and then say the Opposition is respon-

sible; they could not ridicule the capacity of hon. members of the Opposition and then blame them for not assisting them; besides, there is no hon. gentleman on that side of the House who is paid \$7,600 for the purpose of seeing that the legislation is done in a proper manner and that blunders such as those of last session are not made. (Opposition applause.) He resented the statements of the Attorney-General and Minister of Education upon the platform that he (Mr. Whitney) was not capable as leader of a party, and that he is a "picayune" politician, and twitted Hon. Mr. Garrow, to whom he referred as the "lecturer general of the House," with having failed to notice the "blunder" in the legislation of last session which necessitated prorogation, and expressed the opinion that the hon. gentleman was apparently too much enamored of the act to detect any flaws under the peculiar position which he occupied at the time. He had no hesitation in saying the hon. gentleman is quite worthy the honorable position which he holds, so far as capabilities for performing the duties of any position to which he may be appointed are concerned. He did not wish to make comparisons, but the hon. gentleman had not cared to sit out the whole Parliament by virtue of the vote of the returning officer. For himself he would rather sit in the House in that position than with a majority of 45, with all the added prestige of a member of the Cabinet. Proceeding, Mr. Whitney taunted the Government with fighting shy of the Lord's Day act and with taking refuge behind a reference to the court. They could not tell the House whether constables had a vote; they could not determine the meaning of the contract with the Niagara Power Company and referred it to one of the courts to tell them what the contract they had themselves written meant. And now they send the Lord's Day act to the court to be interpreted, and he did not know whether there is going to be a new court created for the revision and interpretation of the acts of the Ontario Government. (Laughter.) The people of the Province, he declared, stood breathless at the succession of blunders which the born statesmen who composed the Government had made during the last two years.

Monstrous Iniquity.

Mr. Whitney then referred to the bye-elections, and spoke of his amusement when the mover of the address spoke of the want of protection for members against irresponsible petitioners. In an ironical strain he congratulated the hon. member for his generosity in making the proposal, because the hon. gentleman knew that the influence which sent him to the Legislature is strong enough financially to protect him against all the irresponsible petitioners who may choose to turn him out of the House. Respecting the bye-elections proper, he did not propose to enter into details. Later on opportunities would be offered for doing so, and his hon. friends opposite might rest assured that the issue would be raised between the parties in this Province as to the way the bye-