

upon the necessity of capital to develop the country's resources, and closed with an eloquent plea that questions affecting the good of the Province should be placed beyond the ordinary discussion of party questions. Mr. Stratton was loudly applauded upon the conclusion of his very eloquent deliverance.

The Amount Was Interest.

Mr. Stratton afterwards referred to a criticism in *The Mail and Empire* this morning, and of which he did not complain, to the effect that when replying to Col. Matheson's charge that the \$60,000 received by the Government from the Dominion was subsidy and not interest he did not give a complete answer.

Col. Matheson—I did not say it was a subsidy. I said it was a loan.

Mr. Stratton—We will say a loan, then. And I replied that it was interest. My hon. friend has great confidence in the bookkeeping at Ottawa during the recent regime, and the same system of booking is there at present. I was going to ask him yesterday if he would point out to me in the public accounts any particular item which would show this amount to be a subsidy or a loan. Now I will read, for the satisfaction of my hon. friend, for the satisfaction of the House, for the satisfaction of the country, and for the satisfaction of *The Mail*, the following letter from the Ottawa Department of Finance:

"Sir,—I have the honor to enclose herewith check No. 7,964 in your favor on the Bank of Montreal, Ottawa, for \$60,000, being a payment on account of interest due your Province. (Applause.) This approximate amount is arrived at as follows: Interest on trust funds for two years to June 30, 1898, \$335,212.93, less amount already paid, \$140,000, and less interest on approximate debt; balance, \$1,700,000, at 4 per cent. for two years." (Cheers.)

Mr. Stratton—So my hon. friend will see that the statement I made that the \$142,000 that we considered in the receipts as interest was the interest on the \$2,848,000, and that this \$60,000 was interest, as I said to himself yesterday.

Mr. Whitney—Who signs the letter?

Mr. Stratton—W. Fitzgerald, Assistant Deputy Finance Minister.

Col. Matheson held that Mr. Fitzgerald's statement was extraordinary, as the rate of interest mentioned was not the rate decided upon by the trust funds award.

Mr. Whitney—The writer acted under orders.

Mr. Stratton—He is a Conservative appointee, and carrying out laws passed by the Conservative Government. (Applause.)

Opposition Will Co-operate.

Mr. Kribs assured the Government that they would have the hearty co-operation of the Opposition in any efforts which might be made to develop the mining and timber interests of the Province. He resented Mr. Stratton's reference to Ananias and his plea that the Provincial officials did not require as close watching as hon. members of the Opposition demanded, and in reply quoted the case of an official in the Waterloo Registry Office who had a deficit of \$5,000. Accepting the remarks

of Mr. Stratton as indicating an intention on the part of the Government to tax financial institutions, he objected strongly to it on the ground that it would be a direct tax on every business man in the Province, each one of whom has to use the banks, who will make up the amount of the tax in increased interest. The loan companies would also benefit in a similar manner. Taking up the public accounts, Mr. Kribs criticized the salaries paid to public officials, which, he contended, were too high, and should be reduced by 15 per cent., and the Ministers ought to commence with their own salaries; this would effect a saving of \$150,000, and wipe out the deficit of last year.

Hon. Mr. Ross—Would you reduce the members' indemnity?

Mr. Kribs—I am willing to commence and take it off my own. The members should commence first on their own salaries. Continuing, Mr. Kribs contended that there was too much money spent on the Agricultural College for the amount of work that is being done, and also that if the money spent on colonization roads was handed over to the municipalities much better roads would be the result.

Notices of Motion.

Among the notices of motion are the following:—

Mr. Thompson—On Monday Next—Inquiry of Ministry: (1) What was the reason of the commission inquiry into the claim of Caul & Sons? (2) What was the result of the inquiry of the commission? (3) Names of all persons employed by the Government in connection with the said commission inquiry? (4) Amount paid to each of said persons? (5) Total cost of the said commission inquiry? (6) Total revenue received by the Government from the timber on the territory in dispute? (7) Dates showing the length of time each of the persons employed by the Government was actually engaged in work in connection with said inquiry?

Mr. Whitney—On Monday next—Inquiry of Ministry: (1) Has the Government appointed a Crown Prosecutor at Fort Frances? (2) If not, has the Government any intention of making such an appointment?

For Open Voting.

Mr. Pattullo, North Oxford, has given notice of his intention to introduce several bills. The first has for its object the prevention of the use of the ballot in municipal councils. The Wardens are now elected by ballot, and the custom of electing officers by this means in township and county councils is growing. Mr. Pattullo regards this as opposed to the principle of representative government and desires to prevent its continuance.

Another bill which Mr. Pattullo will introduce will prevent municipal councils from granting bonuses or other aid to manufacturing industries, whether by exemptions from taxation, free water or free light, where these are under municipal control.

The third measure proposes to extend the scope of Mr. Caven's bill of two years ago, relating to the election of township and town councillors in towns