

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ONTARIO'S RESOURCES.

Premier Ross Outlines Plans
For Development.

FORWARD POLICY.

Tax Likely to be Imposed on
Nickel Lands.

COLD-STORAGE STATIONS.

Municipalities to be Aided in Estab-
lishing Them—Government Shown
to be Punishing Corruption.

The Premier of Ontario occupied the floor for nearly four hours at the Legislature yesterday in making his reply to the leader of the Opposition. The speech was a long one, but it was eagerly followed by an attentive House, and held the undivided attention of crowded galleries. Every point of importance to which Mr. Whitney had alluded received attention, and the Premier also took advantage to announce some important developments in connection with the forward policy promised prior to the meeting of the Assembly and alluded to in the speech from the throne. In connection with the settlement of new Ontario the Government are making arrangements with the railways that have received Provincial subsidies for the transportation of settlers and settlers' effects at reduced rates. A tax is to be imposed on nickel lands similar in principle to that which has been adopted in Quebec in the case of pulpwood. Provincial aid will be granted to those municipalities which establish cold-storage stations. The creation of a huge forest reserve in the Lake Tamagami district has been resolved upon, and the Government hope to be able to put into force measures for conserving the pulpwood resources of the Province. With respect to the financial condition of Ontario, the Premier intimated that the report of the commission of experts had been received, and would be laid before the House in a day or two. Mr. Ross reviewed at length the subject of electoral corruption, and reiterated the Government's intention to put down wrong-doing with a firm hand. In this duty the Opposition were invited to assist. Mr. Marter moved the adjournment of the debate, which may continue for some days yet. It is probable that Mr. Ross will deliver his budget speech on Thursday of next week.

The Premier's Speech.

Premier Ross, whose rising was greeted with loud applause by the Government members, prefaced his remarks with a graceful reference to Mr. Speaker. He then referred in pleasing terms to Sir Oliver Mowat, whose presence at the opening they were all pleased to note. His had been a long and honorable career, first as a member of the old Legislature of Canada; second, as a father of Confederation; third, as a Minister in the Province of Ontario; fourth, as Premier of the Province, and now in the exalted and influential position of Lieutenant-Governor. In every one of those positions he had exhibited the qualities of statesmanship and resourcefulness of a man who was most anxious to serve his country efficiently. Mr. Ross next paid a gracious compliment to the