

Hon. Mr. Ross—There was a Commissioner.

Mr. Foy—A mere name.

Hon. Mr. Ross—The name was attached to that position just as in the case of the Fisheries Commissioner now. Supposing I brought in a bill to have a Commissioner of Mines appointed. If I brought in such a bill as that the conclusion would be that every person who voted for that resolution was opposed to the appointment of a Minister of Mines.

The Education Policy.

Mr. Whitney had spent a good deal of time discussing the subject of education, but he had told them nothing new, nothing that required to be answered so far as he could see. The Government had answered his objections on the subject over and over again. He took issue with Mr. Whitney, and declared that the public school system was complete, and that it gave a well-rounded education to all who attended the public schools. Mr. Whitney disagreed with the Premier's policy of making it a stepping-stone to the high schools. Twenty-five thousand pupils went to the high schools. Where were they to get their preparatory education if not in the public schools? If the 130 high schools were blotted out to-morrow the public school education would not suffer in one part.

"My hon. friend says there has been friction between the Education Department and the university for a great many years. I am not aware of this friction. They did not always agree with my views, and do not agree with me now; but there was no friction, and is not now. Some of the members of the faculty were and are my best friends. As Minister of Education I promoted its advancement by every means in my power. When I took charge seventeen years ago the undergraduates numbered between 300 and 400; now they are between 900 and 1,000.

The University and the State.

"The hon. gentleman seems anxious that our university system should be divorced from all connection with the State. Is that the public feeling of this country? This House is a deliberative body, where we express not only our own views but those of the different communities. I have never heard a member of the faculty of the university favor a separation from the control of the Government. I could count on the fingers of one hand all the alumnae of Toronto University that have ever expressed that opinion to me. I have never seen any body of graduates endorsing that view. If that be the view of the country I would like very much to know it. If the university is hampered by its political connection, then let that connection cease by all means. The political connection should not stand if the prosperity of the university is crippled. I do not believe it is hampered. I do not know anybody who would give a bequest to the university if it were separated from the State. I do not know anybody who was appointed to it because of his political views." (Applause.)

Consultative Committee.

With respect to the suggested Consultative Committee, Mr. Ross denied that he had changed his opinion. The Opposition leader had proposed an Advisory Committee, while Mr. Ross favored a Consultative Committee. There was a great difference between the two terms. An Advisory Board was one to give advice; a Consultative Committee was one that might be consulted or not, as the Minister thought fit. In England in 1893 an Advisory Board was proposed in connection with the Education Department. The proposition was not accepted, and then a bill was brought in for the appointment of a Consultative Committee. The word "advisory" was eliminated, and during the discussion it was pointed out that the Minister might consult the committee or not, as he thought fit, and that his responsibility was to be unimpaired. That could not be done under an Advisory Board, but it could be done under a Consultative Committee. That matter was now occupying the attention of the Government—whether they should have a Consultative Committee, and how it should be appointed.

Taking up the timber question, Mr. Ross showed that the claim of the Opposition to have invented the saw-log policy now in force was not correct. As long ago as the timber sale of 1890 the manufacturing clause was in operation, and Mr. Miscampbell did not introduce his resolution to compel manufacture in Ontario until three years later. It was also incorrect to say that Hon. Mr. Gibson and the Liberals voted against the manufacturing clause. Their contention was that the manufacturing clause should not go into operation until after the expiration of the then existing license year.

The Premier then spoke upon the necessity of preserving the pine forests of Ontario, and referred to the steps that were being taken in the way of reforestation to accomplish that result. It might be that some measure might be devised for proceeding more slowly in the cutting of timber, and perhaps the lumbermen might be induced to cooperate with the Government in that regard. Possibly the pulpwood might be preserved in the same way as the pine, by creating forest reserves, so as to get the largest possible revenue from the former.

Such were the initiative policies the Government were carrying out for the good of the country in regard to pulpwood, nickel, reforesting and colonization. Another item was the proposed exploration of the territory north of the Canadian Pacific Railway toward Hudson Bay.

They contended it was a new Government, but the Opposition said they must not flatter themselves by that pleasing illusion. It was not material whether it was new or not. The Government had addressed itself to those new questions with new vigor, and had to-day, he believed, the confidence of the country. (Opposition laughter.)

A Vigorous Government.

"The Government," Mr. Ross went on, "have the confidence of the people. We have not so large a majority as I