

speech by declaring the election commission was a farce, and by paying a tribute to the Canadian soldiers at the front.

#### Stood Up For Muskoka.

Mr. Bridgland (Muskoka) spoke upon the needs of the New Ontario district, which part of the Province, he said, began with Muskoka. The speaker had lived in Muskoka for thirty years, and was well acquainted with its resources and capabilities. Mr. Carscallen had said that Muskoka was not fit for farming, and that many farms had been taken up in that district and afterwards abandoned. It was quite true that so far as the physical nature of the country was concerned Muskoka did not quite come up to the older parts of the Province. It was, however, far from being what Mr. Carscallen had described it to be. Many of the farms were surrounded with large clearings, and the dwellings were often substantial buildings of brick or stone. Not only were the homes of Muskoka comfortable, but the farmers were in the enjoyment of many luxuries. Under the circumstances, it was in very bad taste for Mr. Carscallen to decry a part of the country which was affording happy homes to many settlers. It was unwise to make such statements in regard to any Ontario district, because they would be accepted as gospel truth by outsiders, who were not well informed, and would do the Province great harm. Mr. Bridgland spoke of the growing appreciation of Muskoka as a pleasure and health resort, and said the tourists and others who yearly flocked in there were rapidly increasing. In this connection he referred to the establishment of the sanatorium at Gravenhurst, and complimented the managers upon the good work which was being done at the institution.

#### Muskoka's Resources.

As to the resources of Muskoka, Mr. Bridgland said that although the pine was disappearing, there were still large forests of basswood, birch, oak, elm, maple and hemlock, which had now acquired an added value, and brought a fair remuneration to the settlers. The bark from the hemlock trees was readily marketed for tannery purposes, and the logs were disposed of to the lumbermen. To-day the settler obtained a higher price for hemlock than he realized for pine when the speaker first went into the Muskoka district. Two of the largest tanneries in the country were located in the Town of Bracebridge. There was an equally large tannery at Huntsville, and a fourth at Burk's Falls. No less than 15,000 cords of bark were consumed every year at these tanneries, for which the settlers received \$4 a cord. In this way an enormous sum of money was distributed throughout the district. Then, too, it must be remembered that employment was given to many men in the tanneries, which meant the distribution of further sums of money among the people. Mr. Bridgland spoke of the necessity of making a careful survey in order to accurately determine the resources of the great region to the north, and dwelt upon the importance of the pulpwood industry. He defended

the expenditure of money upon colonization roads, and said that so far as his district was concerned, it had been wisely and satisfactorily expended. The grants for this purpose were small, but they did much to improve roads upon which there had been little or no statute labor. Mr. Bridgland deplored electoral wrongdoing, and expressed his willingness to do what lay in his power to subdue the evil. He closed with a touching reference to the war, which he said had been brought home to the people of Bracebridge by the death of a young townsman named Fred Wasdell. They deplored Wasdell's death, but it was a consolation to think that he had given up his life in defence of the empire. (Loud applause.)

#### Still at the Surplus.

Mr. McLaughlin (Stormont) wanted to know what had become of the huge cash surplus which Sandfield Macdonald's Government had left. Formerly the Liberals claimed to have a surplus of \$5,000,000, but now they had moderated their claims to \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000. The sawlog policy had been a good thing for the Province, but it should have been adopted years ago as the Opposition claimed. He objected to any policy in regard to the pulpwood which would be likely to result in a monopoly. The pulpwood limits should be put up at auction and stumpage dues enforced. He complained that the accommodation and appliances at the Eastern Dairy School, Kingston, were inadequate. An increased grant should be given, otherwise the Government would incur the criticism of doing nothing for the farmers of eastern Ontario. Mr. McLaughlin dilated for some time upon the operations of what he styled "the gang headed by that man Smith." The rights of the people had been stolen by a notorious band of scoundrels, who had gone from place to place, and he challenged the Premier to dissolve the House and appeal to the Province on this question. When the Government appealed to the people their days would be numbered. He disapproved of granting agricultural land in New Ontario to any but actual settlers. Mining lands should not be locked up and the conditions should be made as easy as possible for prospectors. The speaker attempted to justify his conduct in voting against the railway bonuses last session on the ground that the Government kept the House in the dark as to the nature of the enterprises.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the adjournment of the debate and the House adjourned at 5.50.

#### Canadian Bravery.

Mr. Little intends to move the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House the time has come when something should be done in a tangible form to mark our appreciation of the valor and courage displayed by our brave soldiers now engaged in behalf of the empire in the war in South Africa."

Mr. Colquhoun will inquire:—"Has the Government taken steps towards