

GOVERNMENT MAY BUILD THE ROAD.

PREMIER ROSS ON THE TEMISCA- MING RAILWAY.

Premier Ross in making his budget speech to the Ontario Legislature yesterday proposed that a survey be made of the route of a railway from North Bay to the head of Lake Temiscaming, with a view to the possible construction and control of the road by the people. The Premier introduced this new feature of Provincial railway policy in speaking of the necessity for a railway in that region and for conserving the rights of the public in regard to rates. The suggestion was a complete surprise to the members of the House, and was the subject of a good deal of discussion in the corridors. The mention of the Grand Trunk Railway's name as the probable lessees of such a line led many to think that the idea had been seriously considered. The remainder of the speech, which was delivered with Mr. Ross' customary lucidity and force, breathed the new spirit of development of the natural resources of Ontario and of the dawning era of industrial activity resulting therefrom. The Premier also sketched the progress of the Province in the last 30 years, showing the remarkable advance made, especially in education and agriculture.

Sugar Beet Bill.

When the House met, Hon. Mr. Dryden introduced the bill for the encouragement of the sugar beet industry. The first clause provides for the setting apart annually out of the consolidated revenue of the Province of the sum of \$75,000 for three years for the purpose of encouraging the growth of sugar beets and the establishment of factories for the production of refined sugar therefrom. Out of this fund a bounty will be paid to manufacturers of first-class sugar made from such beets of one-half cent a pound for the first year, and one-quarter cent per pound for the products of each of the two following years, and no longer.

Should the amount claimed as bounty exceed \$75,000, the distribution thereof shall be pro rata, according to the amount of production.

Provision is made that during the first year of the operations of such factory the beets shall be paid for at the rate of at least \$4 per ton at the factory, and for the two following years at \$4 and such additional price at the same rate as shall correspond to the proportion of saccharine matter which such beets contain in excess of 12 per cent. In the event of a dispute as to the quantity of saccharine matter, reference shall be made to the analyst of the Ontario Agricultural College, or to such person as may be nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, whose report shall be final.

The Premier introduced a bill to amend the supplementary revenue act. One provision is to conform that act to the terms of an amendment to be introduced shortly to the assessment act repealing the "scrap iron" clause. The other provision made it clear that mutual fire insurance companies are not affected by the supplementary revenue act.

The Budget Speech.

The Premier, on rising to deliver his budget speech, was received with loud cheers from his supporters. He said:—Mr. Speaker,—In moving that you leave the chair, perhaps I shall be able to reach the purposes of this motion without a very lengthened statement of the financial position of the Province. The first statement I desire to make is as to the financial results for the year that has just closed. From the public accounts it will be seen that our entire receipts for the year amounted to \$4,192,940, and that the expenditure amounted to \$4,003,729, leaving a balance on the year's transactions of \$189,210. This, I think, ought to be satisfactory to the House and to the country. It was a year perhaps of somewhat expanding expenditure; it was also a year of very buoyant revenues. The Government had to deal with various matters, some of them of a new character, which involved a charge upon the revenue, or charges upon the revenue, peculiar to the year. Notwithstanding these charges, all of