

quoted recent speeches by Lord Rosebery, and cited the great attention being paid in Germany, the United States and England to the question of technical schools as illustrating the need of Ontario using every effort to maintain her splendid educational position. Ontario was a great agricultural Province, it would also be a great industrial country, and it was necessary that its people should be equipped to hold their own in both lines. He referred to the proposal to establish travelling libraries and the good which might be expected to ensue therefrom. These libraries were needed by and were due as a right to the men in the lumber and mining camps, who were opening up new sections of the country. Speaking of the grants to libraries, he asked what was the result of the circulation of all this reading matter?

#### The Measure of Intelligence.

The measure of intelligence is largely owing to the activity in educational circles not alone of the Government, but in some cases prompted and superintended by the Government. We had now 5,654 public schools, compared with 4,438 in 1871; we had now 10,097 teachers, compared with 5,306 in 1871. Our high schools had increased from an attendance of 7,490 in 1871 to 22,460 in 1899, and the course of instruction had grown to meet the wants of the people. Our libraries had grown from 43 to 418, and the number of volumes have increased from 30,720 to 918,022, and the volumes circulated in 1899 were 2,547,131.

Mr. Ross then reviewed the progress in agriculture, where the total expenditure had been \$5,382,698. In passing he referred to the recent generous offer of the executors of the late Hart A. Massey to establish a library and convocation hall at the Ontario Agricultural College, to cost \$40,000, and expressed the hope that there might be many other persons influenced by a similar desire to promote education. The attendance at the Agricultural College had increased from 28 in 1874 to 259 last year. As a result of the stimulus to agriculture the farmers' institutes were more prosperous than ever, and more prosperous than anywhere else on the continent. (Applause.) Special attention had been given the dairy industry. The result was seen in our exports. In 1882 we made 25,562,431 pounds of cheese, and in 1899 123,323,923 pounds. Our exports of bacon, ham and pork increased from \$1,912,062 in 1871 to \$12,803,034 in 1900. Such a development adds to the welfare and comfort of the home, and increases the savings in our banks, and the comfort at the fireside of all classes, rural as well as urban. (Applause.)

Ontario had a population of barely 2,500,000, but had given \$3,500,000 in round figures from the public treasury to hospitals and charities. What had been given privately was not on public record, but was undoubtedly entered by the recording angel. They had cared for 41,367 persons in those institutions last year. It was a privilege sometimes to be a member of Parliament, and feel that one had been able to put his hand on a treasury to relieve the sufferings of many who otherwise would not re-

ceive the treatment their condition warranted. In the administration of justice the expenditure had been great. The total for administration was \$9,693,662.67. That looked like a lot of money to keep the people of Ontario straight—(laughter)—although of that

amount \$1,500,000 was spent on capital account. The Central Prison had cost \$880,352.24; lock-ups in northern districts, \$405,630.78; Reformatory for Boys, \$183,538.88; Reformatory for Girls, \$223,274.14, a grand total which might be included under administration of justice of \$11,386,358.71. A large expenditure, truly, but it showed, he thought, that the people of Ontario were a law-abiding people. They could dispense with many officers engaged in the administration of the law if they desired to see a lawless Province, but they had chosen to take the opposite course, and rightly so.

#### In Relief of Taxation.

The sum of the whole matter was that they had given back to the people since 1867 mainly for the purpose of relieving them of taxation necessary to preserve law and order, to maintain asylums, charities, educational and other institutions, the sum of \$91,478,158.50. In the United States a large proportion of the amounts raised for the purposes was by direct taxation. Not a dollar had been raised in Ontario by direct taxation. (Government applause.) They had not reached that condition during the past century, and he did not suppose they would reach it by the end of the present one. (Renewed Government applause.) The Premier then referred specifically to the acts of the Liberal Administration. His hon. friend from East Toronto had said the Government was a dying Government. It was, said the Premier, a lively corpse. (Government laughter.)

Mr. Kidd—The Attorney-General said that the Government was on the ragged edge. (Opposition laughter.)

#### Miles From the Ragged Edge.

The Premier—We are miles from the ragged edge. Three miles since the last election. (Government laughter and applause.)

The Premier then referred to the establishment of the Agricultural College, travelling dairies and farmers' institutes, all of which had proved of great benefit.

The Government had organized twelve societies since 1871 for the development of special agricultural interests, fruit stations, horse breeders', cattle breeders', swine breeders', beekeepers' associations, and so on.

Mr. Whitney—I thought the members established them.

Mr. Ross—The members established them, but we have promoted them. They would not have flourished and been useful had it not been for the grants to them. In 1900 the Government had sent out 196,000 reports and 132,000 bulletins to the farmers, and had kept up to the most advanced country in the world. (Hear, hear.)

We have been abreast of the time, continued the Premier. The Government has been in power 28 years, but it has been a live Government all these