

all times aggressive address. The criticisms of Colonel Matheson and Mr. Whitney were vigorously combatted by the speaker, and the interjections of the leader of the Opposition failed to disturb his equanimity in the slightest degree. Mr. Stratton dealt in a comprehensive manner with the expansion of the Province during the past twenty-five years, and the measures which the Liberal Administrations had taken to aid in that development. He vigorously condemned Mr. Whitney's speech at Niagara Falls, in the recent bye-election in Welland, charging that the leader of the Opposition had promised free Niagara power in an attempt to corrupt the constituency. Mr. Stratton also charged that the member for West Elgin, Mr. Macdiarmid, held his seat by reason of personation. The debate will be resumed by Mr. Hoyie for the Opposition on Tuesday.

#### The Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, on rising to resume the debate on the budget, was received with hearty Ministerial applause. In his opening remarks he said that while he had no desire to hurt the feelings of the financial critic of the Opposition, he was bound to say that Colonel Matheson's speech on the budget was the weakest made in the history of the House. The only conclusion he (Mr. Stratton) could reach was that the hon. member from South Lanark had become conscience-smitten, and was feeling that the task of attacking the financial status of the Province was useless and profitless. He defied the hon. gentleman or any other hon. gentleman inside or outside of the House to show where the statement of the Treasurer was incorrect. Would any hon. gentleman undertake to say that the statement was misleading; and if he did was it not his duty to point out wherein the errors lay? He desired hon. gentlemen and the country to understand that the statements made by hon. Treasurers during the time that a Liberal Government had controlled the affairs of the country were as correct and as accurate as they possibly could be. No country, as had been said before, was in so happy a financial condition as the Province of Ontario.

#### Finances of the Province.

Continuing, he said his hon. friend from South Lanark, the critic of the Opposition, always argued that the railway certificates and annuities were presently payable, while, as a matter of fact, they were not; and, further, the Province had coming from the Dominion more interest than would retire the annuities and railway certificates if they were twice the magnitude that they were at present. He referred to the proposed railway agreement which the Conservative Manitoba Government

had brought before the Legislature, giving the amounts of railway bonds which it was proposed to guarantee. Would the hon. gentleman argue that these were liabilities presently payable? Assuredly not; they were or would be payable if the agreement should pass, just as they were in Ontario, namely, when due. (Government applause.) It had, he continued, been contended by hon. gentlemen opposite that the moneys belonging to Ontario and held by the Dominion were not presently payable, and quoted from the report of the Royal Commission on finance and a letter from Hon. Mr. Fielding to refute this view. As a matter of fact, however, the Province had no desire to interfere with an asset so valuable as that, because, as business men, they knew that it would be a matter of the greatest possible difficulty to invest the \$2,848,000 held for the Province in so good a security and at such a high rate of interest. (Government applause.) He spoke of Mr. Whitney's references to the gentlemen who composed the Royal Commission on the finances, and stated that any man who did not know the high position occupied in the financial world of this country by such men as Dr. Hoskin of the General Trusts Company, Mr. Byron E. Walker of the Bank of Commerce and Mr. Kirkland of the Bank of Montreal had been living in a part of the Province where knowledge of financial affairs was very vague.

#### Mr. Whitney Criticized.

The hon. leader of the Opposition was not able to show that any of the moneys which had been appropriated had been appropriated wrongly. He had been unable to do more than indulge in a few glittering generalities. (Ministerial applause.) His hon. friend (Mr. Whitney) had complained of the depletion of our forests. Where our great pine forests used to stand the Province was now populated by a hardy people, a far better asset than standing timber. Not one breath of scandal was attached to any Minister of the Crown in connection with the great expenditures since 1872, and the people of the Province had obtained good value for the money that had been expended. (Applause.) He would be very sorry if the expenditure of the Province was not larger than it was in 1872. "I would not be a member of a Government or of a party that stood still," Mr. Stratton declared. "The hon. gentleman had better go to China, where they are standing still and marking time. That is about the only country in the world that is not progressive." (Ministerial applause.) Last year Ontario gave \$1,980,733 for education, public institutions maintenance, agriculture, and hospitals and charities. One-half the expenditure was for municipal or philanthropic purposes. No State in the United States spent anything like as large a proportion of their income as we did upon public benevolence, unless by direct taxation. New York State, with a population of six millions, had an expenditure last year of \$25,837,000, and of that \$7,942,000, or less than one-third, was spent on those charitable or