

our Provincial rights; thirdly, that able solicitors will see when the bill is going through that our rights are safeguarded—I hope the House will feel satisfied that no harm will come to the Province that can be prevented by the action of the Government. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Conmee (West Algoma) declared that Ontario would benefit by the reduction of rates secured by Manitoba.

School System Criticized.

On the motion to go into Committee of Supply being again put, Mr. Whitney moved in amendment that in view of public dissatisfaction the sphere of the public schools be remodelled, and, when necessary, widened and enlarged; that there should be created a consultative council, composed of representatives from all the educational bodies in the country, to assist the Minister of Education, the Minister to use his own discretion as to accepting their advice, and that the price of school books be reduced.

In speaking briefly to the amendment, Mr. Whitney contended that the present public school system was not conducted with the fact in mind that 95 per cent. of the children did not go further than those schools. For that reason their education should be based upon the broadest possible lines. At present it was too artificial.

System Defended.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt thought it was to be regretted that some speeches made outside of the House by leaders in educational affairs were plainly marked with the trail of political prejudice. That fact completely destroyed their value. The question of education should be dealt with entirely apart from party politics. He did not wish to be understood as inferring that the leader of the Opposition had tried or desired to make undue party capital out of the question, but he did not think that Mr. Whitney had considered the matter in a thorough way. In no country in the world was there so little dissatisfaction in regard to educational affairs as in the Province of Ontario. In England, owing to recent legislation, the science schools were in danger, the continuation classes were being neglected and about 56 per cent. of the teachers were uncertificated. No such charges could be made against the educational system of this Province. Systems must be judged by their results, and the academic and professional standing of those who received their education under the system in Ontario spoke for itself.

A Consultative Committee existed in the shape of the teachers' convention now in session in the city, and in the Advisory Board. The statement frequently made that 95 per cent. of the children never went beyond the public schools was incorrect; 27 per cent. were receiving a secondary education.

President Loudon's Position.

Prof. Loudon, his personal friend, some time ago made a speech on the public school system of the Province. The professor had made his statements without reason, knowledge, or a clear insight into the system. The learned professor, he said, spoke as a man who stood aloof from the public school sys-

tem of the Province. In England the professors during their vacations visited the great cities and county towns, made themselves acquainted with the industrial conditions of the country, and lectured to audiences of workmen and farmers on subjects of interest. This was designated university extension work. He believed that the University of Toronto would to-day be in a far better condition, financially if during the past twenty years its professors had mixed more with the people, gone more into the county towns, and brought more prominently before the public the reality of the great work the university was doing.

In conclusion, Mr. Harcourt said the Government had seriously and honestly tried to give the best and cheapest textbooks for the pupils, and had succeeded fairly well. It was imperative, however, that the latest text-books should be in use. A new geography,

for instance, must soon be issued in England, or Canada, for the one reason, if for no other, that the map of a whole continent had been changed through the gallantry of British and Canadian troops. New histories of both England and Canada would soon be issued, and the children of Ontario would always be provided with the best. But the Government, as always, would try to see that they got the cheapest consistent with quality.

Mr. Whitney—I hope you do not intend to dismiss Prof. Loudon before the end of the year.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt—I have no intention of dismissing so useful a public servant, who on this question is like some other gentlemen, somewhat mistaken.

The amendment was defeated on a straight party division, the Government majority being ten, and the motion carried on a similar majority. The balance of items in the main estimates were passed, as were also all but one of the items in the supplementary estimates.

Simcoe Street Improvement.

On the item for repairs to Government House and grounds in view of the reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, the Attorney-General referred to the condition of Simcoe street. It was, he said, a disgrace to the city, and he had hoped that something would have been done before this. He objected to the attitude of the city toward the Government on the question and was not prepared to be coerced by the city. He had thought of bringing in special legislation to compel the city to take action, but had decided after some discussion with the city's representatives not to do so, in the hope that they would authorize the carrying out of the necessary work.

Mr. Crawford said the Attorney-General's speech was a clear intimation that the Government would do nothing, and the city would have to carry out the work. He thought it unfair to assume so strong an attitude on the question.

Overcharging the Government.

Hon. Mr. Stratton said the city charged the Government excessive rates for water supplied to the Asylum, the Mercer Reformatory and the House of Re-