

Jan 23/02

In session for two weeks, and the members had yet to learn the reason for that journey and the results which had followed. He protested against Government members acting as directors, Presidents or Vice-Presidents of different companies. He read an editorial from The Goderich Signal protesting against this practice, to support his argument that even members and the press of the Liberals were opposed to it. Proceeding, Mr. Thompson criticized the Government on the ground that they had not vigorously prosecuted the offenders in various irregular proceedings in the North Waterloo and other elections. Even such a strong Reform paper as The Kingston Whig had, he said, protested against the delay. In conclusion, he said the Opposition did not fear a fair elec-

tion. They were ably led by the hon. member from Dundas, who had a united party at his back in the House and the country, and who in a fair election would lead his party to victory. (Opposition cheers.)

#### A Contented People.

Mr. Preston (South Brant) said that after the masterly exposition of the Hon. Treasurer and the vigorous address of the member for Brockville (Mr. Graham) it was in a sense like making bricks without straw for a member on that side of the House to endeavor to speak. As for the Opposition, they had been accustomed to making bricks by that arduous method for the last thirty years. (Ministerial applause.) He expressed admiration for Col. Matheson for the courage he had displayed in rescuing from oblivion issues which had been buried years ago. The people of Ontario were not interested in hair-splitting methods of bookkeeping. They were content to accept the report of the Finance Commission that there was a surplus of assets over liabilities of more than \$2,000,000, and they were content to see \$1,468,000 in cash in the bank to the credit of the Province. The only Provincial taxation which fell on the people of Ontario was that which went into the Dominion treasury, to be returned to the Province in the form of subsidy, and which amounted to something like 26 cents per head. For that they received very extensive services. The County of Brant, which he would take as an example, received, according to a list of items which he quoted affecting education, public libraries, agriculture, public institutions, etc., about \$50,000. That was a fair sample of what was given to all the counties of the Province. The

Opposition had sought to prevent the financial corporations from contributing towards the educational institutions of the Province and toward the general development of the Province. Even that money did not come from the people, but from the shareholders, whose dividends and rest accounts were somewhat lessened.

#### Government Too Economical.

For his own part, the only fault he had to find with the Government was that they were too economical. The grants for technical education, manual training and domestic science might well be increased. The City of Brantford, for which he claimed the credit of having erected the first building for manual training, ought to receive \$2,000 of this year's \$20,000 grant for technical education. He pointed out that there had been a great change in the opinions of the working classes as to manual training, and while it was formerly looked upon with distrust by them, its great value was now recognized and welcomed. He pointed out that while the hon. member for South Lanark (Col. Matheson) and his colleagues were now vehemently contending that the woods and forests were being played out, they had opposed the appointment of a Clerk of Forestry, whose duty was to care for those same woods and forests. The arguments of Col. Matheson on the municipal cold-storage system were, he said, weak and inconsistent.

#### Labor Disputes.

His hon. friend (Mr. Thompson) had said the Labor Bureau of the Province had failed to be of any service in ending a strike in Orillia. The bureau was probably not as efficient as it would be when a bill which he had introduced would be passed. Nevertheless, the Dominion Labor Bureau had been at the disposal of the parties to the strike referred to, but it had not been used. That department had been most successful in settling labor troubles in all parts of Canada. It was a fact that the Trades and Labor Council of Toronto had not in twenty years endorsed a single measure for the benefit of labor emanating from the hon. gentlemen opposite. He had in 1900 introduced a bill providing for fair wages on public contracts, and that had been adopted by the Dominion Government and by the Ontario Government in its recent railway bills.

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