

open up new Ontario, there were some expenditures in connection with colonization roads there which needed explanation. For instance, in the Temiskaming district \$10,514 was expended on colonization roads last year, and of this \$5,396 went to the overseers and about \$3,700 to the men. The overseers, he thought, must be very good friends of the Government. (Opposition applause.) He criticized expenditures for immigration purposes, and said that when settlers did take up homesteads they found the regulations such that they could not take more than enough timber to just build themselves a little shanty. In concluding, he said he felt it in his bones that the Conservatives would be successful at the next election, and a progressive Government would take the place of the present administration.

Mr. Lee's Advice.

Mr. Lee (East Kent), on rising to deliver his first address in the House, was greeted with prolonged Ministerial applause. He advised Dr. Jessop to consult Dr. McKay as to that feeling in his bones, and he had no doubt that he would soon find that it was due to rheumatism and could be cured by the usual remedies. (Ministerial applause and laughter.) He combated the statement made by Dr. Jessop to the effect that settlers in new Ontario were deprived of the right to take more timber than was actually needed to build their log houses, and read extracts from various agreements with several companies and syndicates to show that the Government had guarded the settlers' rights in this regard. Continuing, he said he had heard a great deal during the debate as to alleged irregularities in West Elgin. He was sure that no one would charge the Government with having any part or knowledge of them, or with any other desire than that such practices should be stamped out. He wished, however, to call the attention of the House to the fact that since 1867 there had been six contested election suits in that riding, only one of which had resulted in the unseating of a Liberal—Mr. Donald Macnish—the others having resulted in the unseating of supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite. (Ministerial applause.)

The Question of Gerrymanders.

Reference had been made to redistribution in new Ontario, and the statement had been made that any gerrymander would be fought, if need be, all summer. Hon. gentlemen opposite should be careful in speaking of gerrymanders not to forget that of 1882, when their friends were in power in Ottawa. The Ontario Government would never dream of inflicting on the country anything approaching that gerrymander.

Mr. Whitney—They might find it hard work.

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Mr. Lee—it would be easy, sir, to gerrymander your constituency so that you would never come back to this House—(Ministerial laughter and applause)—but the Government does not need to resort to any such steps, because they have the confidence of the country. (Renewed Ministerial applause.) Continuing, Mr. Lee dealt with the Government's timber policy, and compared the good prices which the present Administration obtained for timber limits, as against those of Conservative Administrations in Ontario and at Ottawa. He deprecated the attacks on Hon. Mr. Dryden's investment in a Dakota ranch as a sample of small politics. For his own part he hoped that Mr. Dryden and Mr. Crawford (West Toronto), who was also an investor in the ranch, might find a good return for their investment. One hon. member, Mr. Hoyle, had, he proceeded, quoted Mr. Goldwin Smith in support of a criticism of the Education Department's method of printing school books. That criticism, he thought, would carry about as much weight as Mr. Smith's "Guesses at the Riddle of Existence," to which no one now paid any attention. He concluded with a commendation of the Government's policy of aiding the beet sugar and other industries and the good roads movement, and by expressing the belief that the Government was stronger now than at any time during the past four years, and would be returned to power.

The Opposition's Duty.

Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) combated the claim that the policy of the Opposition on the succession duties would have reduced the income of the Province by \$1,500,000. He said no Opposition in the British Empire had ever consented to further taxation when the Government in its annual reports claimed a surplus of from \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000. (Opposition applause.) It was the duty of every Opposition to resist fresh taxation, and that had been their policy in 1892, but they also admitted that when additional taxation was necessary that was a proper method of raising the money. He contended that the tax on corporations had resulted in decreased profits to insurance policyholders. The administration of justice had become a very costly branch, and Mr. Hoyle expressed disappointment that the Attorney-General had not last year passed his measure of law reform. He quoted from a report of a meeting of leading lawyers at Osgoode Hall that there were too many County Judges. In Ontario County there were now three Judges doing the work formerly done by Judge Dartnell, when there was twice as much litigation as there is now.