

plus was the result of last fall's timber sale. The logical conclusion would be, "Have another timber sale and add another million to your surplus before going to the country." It was said the timber sales had been rendered necessary by fires; if that were the case, the Government was taking credit for the Province's misfortunes.

#### That Dakota Ranch.

Continuing, he referred to the "Dakota ranch" controversy, and said that the Opposition objected to Mr. Dryden's investment only because he was a Cabinet Minister. There would have been no objection had Mr. Dryden been a private member.

The Premier—How about the member for West Toronto?

Mr. Foy—He is not yet Minister of Agriculture. (Opposition applause.)

The Premier—Then he does not count. (Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Foy then read from an article in Collier's Weekly, written by W. T. Stead, in which that gentleman quoted Mr. Dryden's investment as an indication that Canadians now knew on which side their bread was buttered, and that this was another sign of their friendliness toward the United States.

The Premier—He is a pro-Boer.

Mr. Foy—I know that; but my argument is that Mr. Dryden has placed a weapon in the hands of the enemies of the country and of the empire. (Opposition applause.)

Hon. Mr. Dryden said the company in which he was interested did not have to buy or sell land. They simply put their cattle on the ranch for feeding purposes. If one was starting business in the Northwest Territory, land would have to be bought or leased. The investment did not affect the agricultural interests of the country in the least.

Mr. Foy answered that his argument still remained unbroken; a weapon had been placed in the hands of foreign competitors. In concluding, he said that the Premier had not given a satisfactory explanation regarding the withholding by the Dominion of \$200,000 interest due to the Province.

#### Ontario's Unique Position.

Hon. Mr. Davis, after a few preliminary remarks on the importance of a careful presentation and consideration of the work of the year, said there was no Province and no State which could compare with Ontario's financial position. (Ministerial applause.) The budget speech this year had been one which would leave its mark along with many other budgets given during the last 25 years. The financial management and position of the Province had earned the commendation of the independent press of the country, and of business men everywhere. He asked if it was patrio-

tie for the Opposition, in the face of the records of the Province, which indicated the very opposite, to continually declare that the Province was bankrupt. (Ministerial applause.) Continuing, he dwelt upon some leading features of the budget and estimates, namely, the surplus of receipts for the year of \$400,000 over expenditures, and the fact that expenditures had been kept below the estimate. During the debate he had not heard a speaker on the Opposition side say that a single expenditure last year should not have been made. That was a splendid tribute to the financial administration.

Col. Matheson asked if that argument would hold good if the expenditures were \$1,000,000 more than now.

Mr. Davis replied that it would not, because in such a case hon. gentlemen opposite would be able if they were careful to point to some expenditures which should not be made. (Ministerial applause.)

#### Developing New Ontario.

Proceeding, he referred to criticisms that the Government had been slow in developing new Ontario. He pointed out that the Government had been compelled to fight for years against the contentions of friends of hon. gentlemen opposite, first that the land and later that the minerals and timber belonged to them. Sir Oliver Mowat and his colleagues had fought the battle before the Privy Council, retaining for the Province 100,000 square miles of territory with all rights as to timber and minerals, but hon. gentlemen opposite had not given any assistance nor protested against the actions of their friends at Ottawa. (Ministerial applause.) He dealt then with the progress of new Ontario as the result of the Government's policy. In 1881 there were only 12 miles of railway in that country, now there were 1,854 miles, with other lines, including the Government railway under construction or projected. The population, too, had rapidly increased, and the increase showed no signs of diminution.

The mining and general development of the country which had followed were referred to in an interesting way by Mr. Davis, who also incidentally referred to the mining development at Sudbury, the output of ores there having doubled within the past two years, the indications being that the next two years would witness a like increase. (Ministerial applause.)

He was surprised that several Opposition speakers had said that the pine resources were practically exhausted. This statement, which had been made year after year for the past 20 years, was very wide of the mark. There were yet left great areas with millions of feet of pine timber and practically unlimited quantities of pulpwood. He defended the Government's method of dealing with the timber wealth. Sales were

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