

was needed to keep them in power. In 1884 they needed the Patron party's support. In 1898 they were nearly defeated, and in 1902 they were defeated by a popular vote. Their duty then would have been to resign. Instead of that they fought, fought, fought, and to-day, with all their influence, they had a majority of only three. The Conservatives were accused of hounding the Government. They were not doing so, but the Government were hounding the Liberal party. It was not fair to the Opposition to accuse them of hounding the Government so long as they remained within the province of facts. They were not sent to the House, however, to be merely party hacks. The Minister of Agriculture had been lacking in progress. He had merely accepted the suggestions of the farmers' associations. He would be sorry to detract from the hon. gentleman, as he believed he was the only Minister whose skirts were clean in regard to the disclosures of the member for Manitoulin. He, however, was not progressive enough. The dead meat industry should be encouraged so that our small beef cattle could be placed on the English market in such a way as to compete with the Armours and the Swifts and other American producers.

Mr. Duff, resuming after dinner, claimed that the old protective National Policy started the ball rolling to build up the agricultural industries in Canada. In Quebec the population had increased much more rapidly than in Ontario. The Government's immigration policy was not good enough to attract settlers to new Ontario instead of going on to the northwest. The free school book policy of the Opposition was one that several members of the Government had endorsed. The transportation problem was the most important now before the Province. The Minister of Agriculture, when a resolution was presented to obtain better terms from the railways, had accepted it as a vote of want of confidence solely because it came from the Opposition, and all the members on the Liberal side voted against the motion.

The Popular Majority Fallacy.

Mr. Geo. P. Graham (Brockville) said that as he grew older he believed less in the charges brought against public men on both sides of politics in Canada. The death of such men as Andrew Pattullo, who devoted so much time and energy to the public weal, made one wonder whether it was worth while to enter public life. First of all he wanted to straighten out a little tangle that the leader of the Opposition had got into when he said that the member for Brockville had accused the greatest of all Canadian newspapers of being possessed of a devil. While he believed that statement had been printed in one eastern Ontario paper, he was glad to say it was not in his. It was childish to talk of a popular majority for the Opposition in this Province; it was a worn-out argument; he remembered that it was used when he was a very young man. By simple manipulation figures could be made to prove anything. "The majority of the constituencies rule in this Province and in this House, and the Government have them and the Government are going to keep them," said Mr. Graham amid applause. The Government had won more than two to one of the bye-elections since the general election. What had caused the most recent bye-elections? Of the four three had been opened by death, and the fourth by the grossest corruption on the part of the Conservatives that had ever been proven in this country. He did not believe the member for Manitoulin had exerted any influence in the results of those bye-elections, and he quoted *The Woodstock Express*, the paper that supported the Conservative candidate in North Oxford, so that members might see whether *The Globe* was warranted in the statements it had made concerning Mr. Gamey's appearance in that constituency.

North Renfrew's Member.

Dealing with the delay in the

holding of the North Renfrew election, Mr. Graham referred to Mr. Cameron's argument that there was a doubt about Mr. Dunlop's right to sit in the House. "I believe," he said, "that this House is all-powerful for its own needs, and if there be any doubt as to the right of the member to take his seat, which I am not prepared to admit, there should be a way, and I believe there is a way, of wiping out that technicality. If he has done wrong there is a court in this country to find out that wrong, and to the court we leave that question. This House, I am sure, will not take advantage of any technicality to rob a member of the seat to which he was rightly elected." (Applause.)

Was it any wonder that they did not get frightened on the Government side of the House when charges were made against them? These charges had been made continuously for the last thirty years—it had become the settled policy of the Opposition. Twenty years ago Sir Oliver Mowat had been depicted as loading the Province down with debt so that it could not recover itself, and Hon. Alexander Mackenzie also had been fiercely attacked, yet the Opposition now accused the Liberal party of departing from the splendid record of these men.

Mutiny in the Opposition.

The Toronto Telegram had corrected the revolvers against the Opposition front benches by saying that the weakness of the Opposition was not in the whole front row, but in the lawyer members of the front row. The member for North Ontario (W. H. Hoyle) moved an amendment to the amendment moved from the front row. It was a sort of vote of want of confidence. There was a conspiracy against the front benches. It was their duty to say where the conspiracy came from. Any of them who were not in the conspiracy should get up. (Applause.) It was dangerous to go against the front benches. They would some day be the Government of the Province if the people so far lost their minds. (Laughter.)

Electric smelting, to which the hon. member for Manitoulin had referred, was a good thing, and had been introduced by a man who had been greatly abused by Conservatives—the Hon. Clifford Sifton. If the Province or the member for Manitoulin got the benefit they had the Hon. Clifford Sifton to thank. The immigration policy of the Ontario Government had been ridiculed. They must bear in mind that Ontario had largely peopled Manitoba and the Northwest. They were assisting in building up that great right arm of the Dominion, that would some day take great quantities of our manufactures. It was not fair to present only one side of the question. He believed that it was the duty of Canadians to be Canadians first, last and all the time, everything else second. And if one looked at the trade of Canada he ought to be proud, and equally proud of the trade of Ontario.

Not a Hypocrite Question.

The word "hypocrite" had been used in reference to his question upon the free school book matter—which appeared upon the order paper a short time ago. He would excuse the criticism, but would like the Opposition members to search the statutes and records previous to 1901, and see if any reference had been made to free school books. In 1901 he had put a question on the orders in regard to free school books, and had followed it up every year since, and intended to do so until something was done. The Opposition had at one time brought forward a suggestion for having the books manufactured in the Central Prison, and given to the children at cost price. The plan was immediately seen to be useless, to involve the spread of disease, and to have other impracticable features, for which it was immediately dropped.

Free School Books.

Mr. Graham expressed the opinion that having developed so splendidly the timber, mining and agricultural

resources of the Province, it was time the greatest resource, the education of our children, received a little more attention. While Ontario had done great things, having spent nearly a million dollars a year in educating its children, he thought the time had come when they should take another step onward and not only provide free schools but also free books. Our system, while not perfect, was being rapidly developed, and as to the system of school books now authorized, he believed it was the best system on the continent. At the same time he was of opinion that, in some cases, too many books were supplied to the child, because he was strongly in favor of abolishing all home work for children below the senior third. Mr. Graham figured out that the books used by the children from the first to the fourth books would cost \$2.75. During the last ten years the school books used in Toronto had cost only eleven cents per annum per pupil, so that the amount necessary to supply books for all the children attending the public and separate schools throughout the Province was not such a startling one after all.

Objections Answered.

After looking into the experience of other countries, if there were any means by which school books could be given free to the children of this Province it would be the best thing this Government could do. He knew there were some objections to the plan. *The Globe* objected because children would not own their books. Nothing would prevent the parents from buying all the books they wished for their children. From a sanitary point of view, he did not see any objection. The same principle would shut up every public library in Ontario. He would not advocate a Government Printing Bureau to manufacture the books. He would not hamper legitimate trade. He believed that if the Printing Bureau at Ottawa was not in existence, its establishment now would not be considered. He thought that its printing could be done as cheaply and as well, if not better, by legitimate trade as it was now done by the bureau. It was no great stretch of the imagination, however, to see that the free school book proposition could be carried out. The Government had carried out many greater propositions; it was the duty of the Government to carry it out. He believed they were considering the subject. The question then arose, where would the money come from? He had an idea as to this. A little increase in the succession duties could not be better spent than in educating our children. Even the corporations might be taxed a little more. Then we had our timber. It would be a valuable investment of an asset if we could transfer each year a little of our timber or our forest resources to the brains of our sons and daughters.

The Soo Troubles.

Mr. Graham concluded by referring to the labor troubles at the Soo. He had been surprised to hear the criticisms, because he understood from the newspapers at the time that the action taken by the Government was first suggested by the leader of the Opposition. (Opposition hear, hear.) That being the case, where did the objection come in to the carrying out of the idea?

Mr. Foy—It was the way it was done.

Mr. Graham replied that there was only one way of doing it, and that was by giving the assistance. It had to be given either before or after the election, and whichever way had been chosen the Opposition would not have been satisfied. Never in this country was such a practical demonstration given in favor of the workingmen as was given by the present Government of Ontario in assisting labor at the Soo.

They said the Government's majority was small. It was, however, good, substantial and robust. Great oaks from little acorns grew. Mr. Graham amused the House with a story of an Irishman who had a cough. Driving past a cemetery his friend said to him, "You have an uncomfortable cough."