

demagogic speech. Mr. Whitney had changed his position, the Premier said, within a few years. Then it was the public schools for which he had been pleading. He had then declared that the Government was neglecting the public schools, the only means of education for 95 per cent. of the population, for the university. He had appealed against the Government to that constituency for several years, including a couple of general elections. Now he appealed to the 5 per cent. Probably he thought they were more influential in politics. The Premier could see no other motive in the speech just delivered.

#### What the Government Has Done.

The Premier asked the House to look for a moment at the treatment the university had received from the Government. In 1886 he himself had introduced a bill for the confederation of Victoria with the Provincial University. It had been heartily supported on broad grounds by Sir Wm. Meredith, then leader of the Opposition. Mr. Whitney, the Premier remarked, by way of comparison, was mentally and constitutionally unable to take a large view of any subject. What was the broad view of this question? It was that the university was one of a great family of increasing Provincial interests, all of which had to be conserved. The demands, for instance, of the public schools were increasing. The public school population in Ontario was 500,000, and the Government grant to public school education amounted on an average to 50 cents a head. The high school population was 23,000, and the Government aid amounted to \$5 a head. To the university, with its 600 undergraduates, the aid amounted to \$200 a head. Of course the university education was very much more expensive, but it was to be remembered also that the university could not do its best work if the high and public schools were not well maintained. Then there was technical education in the interest of the 300,000 artisans of the Province, for which the Government was doing something, but not as much as it ought. The grant this year was \$25,000. The Normal School, for the improvement of public school teachers, required \$70,000, and there were 10,000 teachers in the Province. The grant to poor schools was \$50,000, to aid education in the unorganized districts, for the children of the settlers who took their lives in their hands and faced disadvantages and inconvenience in extending the bounds of civilization. What a trifling sum it was! The Government could not give to all claimants as it would wish. It had to divide the total available as fairly as possible. The Government gave \$70,000 to agricultural education, and \$96,000 to the university. The division of the resources available had to be made with regard to the industries, the development and the future of the country. The foundations of the country rested not on one or two brilliant products of the university, but upon the masses, upon whose broad shoulders rested the government of the country; not upon the few, but upon the great multitude who earned their bread by the sweat of their brows. The Premier hoped that Mr. Whitney would take a broad view of the question, and that university men would appreciate the situation and not defeat their own ends.

#### Some Explanations.

The Premier explained somewhat more fully than Hon. Mr. Harcourt had his reply to the university deputation. The Provincial grants to education were now more than three times what they were thirty years ago. Demands were being made for additional grants for hospitals and for asylums and for other needs, and he thought the university people should pause a little while other matters were adjusted. In reply to Mr. Whitney's remark about contradictory statements regarding the revenue, the Premier said that on one occasion he had referred to the ordinary annual revenue, and on the other to the abnormal revenue resulting from receipts of \$3,000,000 from a sale of timber. He also asserted that politics had had nothing whatever to do with appointments to the university staff. As to what had been said regarding the President of the university, he wanted to know if university professors were

immune from criticism. The President had made an attack upon the Department of Education and upon the educational methods in vogue, and in what position did he stand that the Government could not come to its own defence? He hoped the time would never come in this Province when one man might not defend himself when attacked by another. He had no resentment towards the President.

#### Rapped Over the Knuckles.

Referring to Mr. Whitney's statement that a university professor had been rapped over the knuckles for "priming" him regarding university matters on the floor of the House, the Premier said he thought it very undignified for the professor to fetch and carry for the leader of the Opposition. He thought he had told the professor so; if not, he might know it now. The professor was Dr. Macallum, the Premier said, and to show that he bore him no resentment, he explained that since the incident Dr. Macallum had been advanced to a more responsible position, and his salary increased from \$2,500 to \$3,200. The Premier said the success of graduates of the university abroad was sufficient answer to the charges that the institution was in a sorry plight. If the Government granted all the applications made this year, aside from that of the university, the appropriations would be increased \$500,000. In conclusion, he said he would regret if the attitude of Mr. Whitney led to any political cleavage in regard to the university. He deprecated the low wash of political sentiment that seemed to sweep over everything. The university was one place where the political tom-tom should never be heard. It should be a great national school, a dynamic force to inspire men to a higher patriotism and higher resolve to work for the welfare and prosperity of the country.

#### Mr. St. John on the "Soo."

Mr. St. John, in resuming the debate on the second reading of the bill to aid the Algoma Central Railway and associated industries, declared that the bill was born in shame and shapen in iniquity. He blamed the crisis at the "Soo," not on the United States steel trust, but on the failure of the Dominion Government to give sufficient protection, and alleged that the bill is not to aid those industries, but to keep a moribund Government in power. He charged that the Government had paid \$260,000 for the constituency and bought two members of the House for their claim of \$400,000.

Mr. Conmee indignantly repeated his explanation of his position, and protested against the continual misrepresentation of it by the Opposition, though one of their members was in the same position as himself.

The Premier said that if such language as "paid" and "bought" were used about members of the House he would have to appeal to the Speaker.

Mr. Hendrie said that he was opposed to the bill, and objected to his position being compared with that of Mr. Conmee.

The Speaker expressed the hope that no further offensive words would be used.

Mr. St. John at length condemned subsidies to railways, and argued for public partnership and ownership.

#### A Duty to the Province.

Mr. Stock said that, though he had made it a rule never to endorse any man's paper, he came to the conclusion that this proposal was a good one, and he would not do his duty to the Province if he did not support it. In the first place, he believed that the scheme was safe for the Province, basing his belief on the character of the securities offered. Taking the items one by one and accepting them at the reduced valu-

ations which the Opposition claimed for them, he showed that there was still over \$3,500,000 as security for the \$2,000,000 loan. Besides, there were the bonds of the company, so that there would be more than double the loan. The proposal, in the second place, was desirable not only for Sault Ste. Marie, but for the whole Province. In his own business he felt the impulse given to trade by the development at the "Soo." If the proposal was not adopted there would be years of litigation, depreciation of plant, loss of confidence by capitalists in Canada and retarding of development.

Mr. Smyth (Algoma) said that his duty was first to the Province and then to the district which he represented. He denied the statement that there was a general demand in the northern district for this proposal, and said that out of 50 letters he had received on the subject only one endorsed the bill. The people of Ontario should not be asked to pay \$2,000,000 to satisfy some political grafters who are interested in the bill. Not one dollar from Canadian banks was going into the scheme, though the President of one bank was named as manager of the new company. He claimed that 100 mines and prospects worked by 100 miners and prospectors would be better for the country than the same area operated by one company.

At 10.55 Mr. Whitney said he had received information that the Queen's Hotel, in which many members lived, was on fire and suggested the adjournment of the House.

The Premier at once adopted the suggestion, and the House adjourned.

The following bills were read a third time:—To amend the university act, respecting the Thunder Bay, Nipigon & St. Joe Railway, respecting the Town of Toronto Junction, to amend the Ontario insurance act, to amend the volunteer land grant act, to amend the bill respecting the Education Department.