

HALF A MILLION FOR UNIVERSITY.

Premier Whitney Explains the Government's Proposals.

NEW HOSPITALS INCLUDED.

Large Private Subscriptions Are Promised.

Government's Grant to be Expended on Several New Buildings—A Measure to Provide Annual Expenditures Promised for Next Session—Admin- istration Changes.

The Government will immediately place at the disposal of the trustees of the University of Toronto the sum of \$465,000 to be expended on necessary buildings, including a new General Hospital. This amount, as Premier Whitney explained in the Legislature yesterday afternoon when introducing his promised bill respecting the university, will be secured by the issue of annuities payable annually for the ensuing thirty years for \$30,000 per annum. The buildings on which the money will be expended will, it is estimated, cost in all \$1,600,000. They include:—

A new General Hospital, towards which Mr. Whitney has reason to believe the city will give \$200,000.

A physics building.

A convocation hall.

A museum for the science building.

Four men's residences.

An addition to the women's residence.

Glass houses for commencing practical teaching in botany and forestry.

The Premier said that \$250,000 in subscriptions from private parties would be forthcoming as soon as the bill was passed. The question of what percentage of the succession duties or of some other source of the Provincial revenue would be devoted as an annual payment to the university would, he stated, be decided next session. In the meantime the Government would conduct a full inquiry, with a view to a complete change in the administration of the university, not necessarily affecting the faculty or teaching staff.

Hon. R. Harcourt deprecated the treatment of the question in a partisan spirit. He showed that the late Government had not been inattentive to the requirements of the university, and mentioned a number of instances in which the late Government had met the university needs in a liberal spirit. While admitting that the Government had taken a great step, he held that it was an automatic step resulting from the evolutionary policy previously laid down. He thought a better plan than earmarking the succession duties might be adopted.

The Premier's Statement.

Premier Whitney, in his opening remarks, confined himself to an historical review of the university from its inception in 1797, when it was a secular institution, an Anglican university, down to the present time. He briefly reviewed its gradual development into its present status of a non-secular Provincial university, and detailed the aid which the Province, through the Legislature, had from time to time granted to it, and the total income received from all sources, compared to the splendid incomes obtained by some of the larger universities of the United States. The

university's work had now grown to such an extent, coincident with the progress of the Province, that its present income was not sufficient to meet its annual expenditures, and deficits resulted which were met from year to year by votes of the Legislature. The revenue this year was \$168,087, and the expenditure \$214,177.89, leaving an estimated deficit of \$46,090. He believed hon. gentlemen on both sides would agree with him it was time to put an end to this condition. That at any rate was the conclusion he had reached, and he was supported by the majority of the members of the House. Five or six years ago, in an address in the Legislature, he had taken the stand that an immediate step must be taken toward putting the university on a sound and stable financial basis, and he quoted at some length from the speech he had made on that occasion. In that speech he had also spoken of what might have to be done for Queen's University, for the apparent intention then was to separate that great institution (to the work of which, as also to that of other religious educational institutions, he paid a glowing tribute) from the Presbyterian Church. The platform he had then laid down had been approved by his party. It had been unmistakably approved by the people, and the Government were now by the bill he proposed carrying out their promises and fulfilling the pledges made in the past.

The Basis of the Scheme.

With regard to the actual scheme he read from a memorandum, prepared at his request by a gentleman who, he thought, was not connected with the university, and which he said would show just what the bill meant. The present requirements for expenditure on capital account were:—For physics building and equipment, \$225,000, toward which the late Premier had promised to provide \$180,000 to be received from the Grand Trunk Railway for the old Parliament buildings. The balance to be provided by the Government was \$45,000. For the museum in connection with the science building, \$50,000. For convocation hall, \$150,000 to \$160,000, of which \$50,000 had been subscribed, \$50,000 had been promised by the late Premier, and the university trustees desired to take the balance required from the endowment to be made good by the proceeds of the sales of wild lands owned by the university. The Government were also asked to grant \$5,000 for glass houses for a start in the teaching of practical botany and forestry; for an addition to the women's residence \$15,000, and towards the cost of four men's residences, costing \$40,000 to \$45,000 each, \$50,000. Mr. E. C. Whitney, the Premier's brother, has already promised the cost of one residence, and those interested feel they can obtain from private sources \$70,000 towards the others.

The New General Hospital.

A proposal had been made to the late Government looking to the improvement of the relations between the Toronto General Hospital and the medical faculty of the university. This involved an offer on the part of the hospital board to resign their trust and aid in forming a new trust, providing the Government, directly or on behalf of the university, donated \$100,000, and to begin the gradual rebuilding of the hospital on its present site or on another site if financially practicable. The late Premier promised \$100,000 if a similar sum would be given by the city, and on condition that the hospital was moved from its present site. The almost universal opinion of the medical faculty supported the removal of the hospital. A new properly-equipped hospital, suitable for the comfort of patients and university students and doctors, would cost \$1,000,000. If the Government would give \$250,000 and the city \$100,000—Mr. Whitney said here that he had reason to believe that the city would give twice that amount—the project seemed quite feasible. The Government are asked to consent to the trustees using \$50,000 of the university endowment to-

wards a hospital site. The balance of the cost may have to be advanced by the trustees as a loan, to be recovered when the site of the old hospital is sold. The direct grants the Government would, therefore, be asked to make totalled \$465,000, and the total contemplated expenditure for all these projects was \$1,600,000.

To Raise the Money.

The memorandum suggested that the sum to be granted by the Government could be most readily provided, "with the greatest justice to the present and the coming generations," by the issue of annuities, payable once annually for the ensuing 30 years, for \$30,000 per annum. These if sold on a basis of 3 1-2 per cent. interest per annum would yield \$551,760, and at 4 per cent. \$518,760. This would make up the difference, if any, between the estimated and actual expenditure. This proposition, Mr. Whitney said, embodied what the Government proposed to adopt, and they believed it would put the finances of the university in regard to capital expenditures on a sound, stable and permanent footing. In regard to current account, he again quoted from the former speech mentioned, in which he had advocated drawing upon the succession duties. By next session the Government would have decided upon what percentage of this or other resources of the Province they would draw upon for annual payment to the university.

In the meantime, with regard to the direct management of the institution

there was considerable room for a change, he would not like to say improvement, because he had not sufficient personal knowledge of the circumstances. It was time the little disputes and irritation, which had occurred within the walls of the university for years past and which perhaps were due to some extent to financial straits were ended.

Big Subscriptions Promised.

The Premier closed by saying that if he could see the successful ending of this great work he would be willing to resign his political nunc dimittis. At the present moment he understood his hon. friend the Minister of Education had in his pocket written assurance that if this measure were brought to a successful conclusion \$250,000 was ready to be given in aid of the university. He then moved, seconded by Hon. Dr. Pyne, the first reading of "An act respecting the University of Toronto."

What the Old Government Did.

Mr. Richard Harcourt said it was not the custom to debate such bills on a first reading. What he had to say, therefore, would be of a general character. He had never made a party appeal to further educational measures, but thought it was the first thing to insist on that any educational measure should be discussed in a non-partisan way. He thought the Premier had departed in a slight degree from this custom, though not so much so that he would find fault. He had had but one note to sound in addressing the electors of the Province with regard to the university. His argument was easy to follow, that all who wished to support the public schools would assist their efficiency by maintaining the efficiency of the university. In the 140 secondary schools, with their 600 university-trained teachers, they had the best reasons for that course, on account of the close community of interest between the university and the secondary schools. Injuring one was a blow struck at the other, and helping one was helping the other.

With reference to the indictment brought by the Premier, he would take up the points mentioned. The physics building had been assured a year ago, so that the first count of the Premier failed. Number two was the science building. Did the Premier forget that the credit for the building now on College street belonged wholly to the late Premier? With regard to the convocation hall, the university deputation asked for \$50,000, and were granted that amount, and expected to get \$50,000 more by