

far as they were found to be of benefit would be supported by the Opposition, Mr. Ross dealt with the Government's administration of the license law. The Premier at the Conservative convention in 1904 had said that one of his objects would be to remove the license commissioners and inspectors from party influence. The speaker cited instances at Ottawa, Chatham and elsewhere, and the dismissal of the Toronto inspectors, in support of his argument that the promise had not been kept. He paid a high tribute to Mr. Thomas Hastings, the late chief license inspector for Toronto, and his assistants, who had been dismissed, so far as the public knew, without cause, and concluded his remarks on this point with the opinion that the Government's course indicated that the liquor trade of the Province was under the closest surveillance of a political party. The beginning of the Government in this respect was very bad. (Opposition applause.) The Opposition leader spoke of what his Government had done for the development of new Ontario, and wondered what had become of the Minister of Mines that had been promised. There was now only half a Minister for that important branch of the Province's source of wealth, the mines, the other half being given to Crown lands.

He then ably defended the former Government for the Grand Trunk Pacific land grant and bonus, pointing out that Ontario had come to the rescue at a critical time in the negotiations. The action of the Government had swayed the English shareholders, some of whom were wondering whether they would go on with the project at all. To Ontario it meant only \$400,000 and about one and a quarter million acres, while the results of the building of the section of the road from Port Arthur to the main line would be incalculable.

Dismissals From Office.

Continuing, Mr. Ross strongly censured the Government for the dismissal from office of many men against whom there had been no charges. It was true the present Dominion Government had dismissed many men, but in the case of many there had been investigations. The late Government in Ontario had not dismissed any one of those in office when they entered on account of partisanship. Since the present Government had attained power there had been 880 appointments, not including about 3,000 justices of the peace, issuers of marriage licenses, or fisheries overseers. Of these appointments 35 were necessary because of death or other sufficient cause; 251 appointments included coroners, notaries, oath commissioners, and police magistrates; the others were appointments after removal of the predecessors from office. Mr. Ross was particularly severe in his criticism of the Government's action in sweeping out of office so many justices of the peace. He could think of nothing more unseemly on the part of a powerful Government, nothing more unworthy of the dignity of the councillors of his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, than their sitting down with the list of justices of the peace before them, and saying, "A.B.: He's a Grit. Off goes his head." (Applause and laughter.) Thousands of the best citizens of the country had been robbed of a privilege they had enjoyed, many of them, for 30 years. He did not believe the rank and file of the Conservative party approved of this.

There were some bills not mentioned in the speech from the throne which, no doubt, the Government, in accordance with their policy while in Opposition, intended to introduce. For instance, measures for the repeal of the taxes on corporations, for the reduction of the succession duties, for the abolition of the position of Minister of Public Works. (Opposition applause and laughter.) In concluding, Mr. Ross said that everything he could do while in Opposition to see that Ontario maintained its prominence educationally, intellectually and morally would be as gladly done in aid of hon. gentlemen opposite as when he himself held office. (Prolonged Opposition applause.)

Some Personal Amenities.

Premier Whitney was received with applause from the Government benches on rising. He rejoiced, he said, to see the fine fettle in which Mr. Ross appeared after the two years' interval. Without desiring to pierce the veil behind which he understood negotiations were going on this week with regard to the translation of his hon. friend to a higher, not to say a wider and broader sphere, he was inclined to ask whether the speech they had just listened to was a valedictory one. He had no desire to see Mr. Ross transfer his services and his well-known lingual capacity elsewhere, but rather desired to have him remain as a study in political philosophy, and of the effect of environment upon one under different conditions. A very long time, he thought, must elapse before an intelligent and liberty-loving people, devoted to fair play, would allow Mr. Ross to be chosen as their leader.

Mr. Whitney was unable to discern any single act of omission or commission on the part of his Government which he would change. Being human, he admitted that they might make mistakes, but they had an awful warning before them. Mr. Ross had gone on to tell the story of the late Government, but how much had he told? He surely would not expect the speaker and his colleagues to follow in the footsteps of those who were associated with the Minnie M. and the North Renfrew election delay. Mr. Ross had become forgetful, and Mr. Whitney assured him that the Liberal party had repudiated such allies and called for reformation from top to bottom.

Speaking of the license system, Mr. Whitney said it seemed to him tyrannical that when a man engaged in a lawful occupation, having received and paid for a license, two of his neighbors should say he must give it up. He admitted that when surrounded by proper safeguards it was the best system to be had, and at least he saw no better in sight.

Political Appointments

A large measure of Mr. Whitney's remarks was devoted to the appointment of officials. The practice of the late Government, he said, showed that they were made absolutely and in every instance for political reasons. The moment the present Government found an inspector doing or refraining from doing his duty for political reasons, that moment he must leave the service. Mr. Whitney challenged the late Government to show that they had ever even considered such a course. Mr. Ross, he declared, had succeeded in carrying the two hostile armies of the liquor interests and the temperance men in his wake. A great hubbub had been raised over the removal of Inspector Hastings. His grief was not allowed to last long, as an office had been created for him at Ottawa, for which no doubt he had a capacity, said Mr. Whitney, who added that Mr. Hastings had been one of two or three inside heelers of the Liberal party for the last eighteen years. It had been decided that he could not remain in office with a due regard to the administration of the license law in Toronto. Later on in his address Mr. Whitney said he was told from some sources that he would not be returned to power because he failed to dismiss, while the Liberals said he did not deserve to be returned to power because he did dismiss officials. Between them he thought the Government was not very far wrong with regard to the spoils system. It was all very well to say what happened under Sir Oliver Mowat. The Government knew more today than last winter. Never an official came into the service but he was told he must work day and night and Sundays in the interests of the Liberal party. This led to the demoralization of the civil service. Some of these officials were right under the roof of the building yet. No wonder if the consequences should be visited on more of those whose actions he had characterized as the work of contemptible hirelings.

Mr. Whitney commended his pulp policy, and denied that his party ever opposed the Temiskaming Railway, the bill for which was passed unanimously. He found it difficult to be fair when Mr. Ross' supporters outside the House were engaged in spreading such reports. In his recollection there had been no vote

in the House on the succession duties. He thought it wrong to impose a tax when a proper administration of Provincial affairs would have rendered it unnecessary.

Poetical Librarian.

With a glance at Niagara power and the G. T. P. grant, which, Mr. Whitney said, the company had evinced a disposition to return in part, the Premier took up the appointment of Mr. T. H. Leavitt as librarian in the Education Department. Mr. Leavitt was once a political organizer attached to the party now in power, he said, but he never had half the prominence or one-tenth the power of Mr. W. T. R. Preston, who was once appointed to the same position. Mr. Leavitt had written nearly as much poetry as Mr. Ross.

Mr. Ross—Perhaps not so good.

Mr. Whitney—Perhaps not so good, but it has always been his own.

Proceeding to discuss the appointment as Deputy Minister of Education of Mr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, Mr. Whitney, quoted The Globe with approval. He was not quarrelling with The Globe, he remarked. One of the basic schemes of reorganizing the Education Department was to have no experts in the office of Minister or Deputy Minister. All the best expert assistance would then be at the disposal of the Government. Mr. Ross was the only man of intelligence in Ontario who did not know two or three things in the situation. The people of the Province were determined there should be a change in the educational system. A new era had come, and no matter how good the system had been the forces of evolution insisted on a better. Education aided the mind to unfold itself, so then of its own motion to absorb what it needed. To-day an opposite system prevailed in the Province, akin to shutting up a fowl in a dark room to get ready for Christmas. Everyone now had his eyes fixed on the necessity of piling up a mountain of straight black marks, and this was one cause of the failure of the educational system, which became more growingly irksome to the better class of educationists. Again Mr. Whitney was proud of The Globe, a journal of which Mr. Ross was a director, and which told him the statements he had made in his speech were without a leg to stand on.

Justices of the Peace.

Having dealt with new Ontario and the "Soo," Mr. Whitney defended the issue of a new commission of Justices of the Peace. No commission had previously been issued since 1864, the Liberal Government, he charged, fearing to face the appointment of Conservatives. He had no hesitation in telling what had occurred. Every man whose faculties were sound and physical capacity fit was retained. More Reformers were left than multiplied by five were ever appointed by a Liberal Government. He asked Mr. Ross, when he spoke of high politics, to say how many times he had done an official act without having to be fully discussed and digested.

The address was adopted.

Hon. Col. Matheson moved that the House go into Committee of Supply and into Committee of Ways and Means tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 6.03.

Notices of Motion.

The following notices of motion were given:—

Mr. Gamey—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Hendrie and Mr. Kidd—Bills to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Eilber—Bill to amend the act respecting houses of refuge.

Mr. Preston asks if the Government has reached a decision in regard to the application of Brantford for permission for the G. T. R. to cross the grounds of the Institute for the Blind.

Mr. Gamey asks for the report, if any, of Mr. Aemilius Irving on alleged irregularities in North Grey in May, 1902.

Mr. Harcourt inquires if any offer was made to the Government during 1905 for the purchase of Temiskaming Railway bonds or other securities, and for details of such offer, if any.