

but they were revenue-producing, and produced much greater profit than could be got from choice investments. He defended the support given to the "Soo" industries. No one dare say there was any danger of losing a fraction of a cent on the Clergue guarantee.

It was little credit to the Provincial Treasurer to have a surplus of \$100,000, when he had received from succession duties in one check \$150,000. Had he not got this there would have been a deficit.

Premier Whitney—But he did get it.

Mr. Harcourt—Yes, he got it, but in spite of his own objections. He had also got, proceeded the speaker, \$400,000 corporation taxes, without which he would have reached a lower deep than the first deep, which, in the gloom and despair that overwhelmed Milton's character still threatening to devour him, opened wide.

A Splendid Record.

Mr. Harcourt confuted the assertion of The Mail and Empire that the Liberal Government had constituted an era of deficits, and on Premier Whitney referring to 1894-5-6, for which Premier Hardy had admitted continuous deficits, pointed out that in these years bonus money, money for college building and other sums charged to capital account should properly be excluded from these deficits. At the same time both Premiers Hardy and Ross had sounded a word of caution.

On resuming at the evening session Mr. Harcourt continued his review of the financial administration of the late Government. The whole story was one reflecting credit on that Administration. His best wish for the present Government was that they might be able to present so excellent a record. He read from Hon. Mr. Matheson's last budget speech, which he referred to as "a little book of fiction," to show that the Treasurer was a poor hand at estimating the revenue, instancing the fact that the receipts from succession duties alone were \$250,000 more than the estimates.

In a criticism of the changed attitude of the Government from that when in Opposition in respect to revenue measures, he quoted Lord Salisbury to the effect that a just Nemesis had decreed that partisans would be forced to do in office precisely that which they most roundly denounced out of office.

The Taxes on Corporations.

"I like the door to slam. I like earnestness. I like italics," remarked the speaker in selecting a passage from a Lindsay speech by the Premier, in which he found a promise to wipe out the corporation taxes.

Premier Whitney charged Mr. Harcourt with deliberately withholding an important portion of his remarks. Mr. Harcourt then read to the effect that if the resources of the Province were properly developed and husbanded direct taxation would be unnecessary. Premier Whitney, however, again charged Mr. Harcourt with deliberately misrepresenting. Mr. Harcourt proceeded with his remarks.

Quotations from Mail and Empire reports of other speeches of the Premier delivered in 1902 were read by Mr. Harcourt in support of his contention. The journals of the House showed also that the Premier had moved the six months' hoist of the measure, and if there was an axiom in regard to any Parliament in the world it was that the moving of the six months' hoist meant, in the mind of the man who moved it, antagonism to the bill to which it referred.

Mr. Harcourt regretted that recent jubiliations over "new Ontario's limitless resources" had not been customary to Conservatives. That was the tone to strike to sell a three-and-a-half bond at par. The Government had been unfortunate and unhappy in their legislative career. They had opposed the appointment of a road commissioner, of a drainage referee, and the salary of the Clerk of Forestry. They had objected to a normal school at London, and now wanted a dozen; they had opposed the moneys given to the Western Dairy School. They would find themselves out of office if they did not follow the Liberal policy in its entirety.

Mr. McGarry's Address.

Mr. McGarry was greeted with loud Government applause. He tendered the hearty thanks of a young member to Mr. Harcourt for stopping short of a four hours' speech by five minutes. With regard to Mr. Harcourt's charge that the Government had adopted the spoils system he defied the Opposition to point out in any of their speeches in twenty-five years where they had expressed a desire that the spoils system should not be in vogue. Not only had they said that officials must be partisan, but even that they must do what was adverse to the other side, and instanced several cases in his experience. The Conservative party had not opposed the Temiskaming Railway, but the manner in which it was built. No proper estimates were made, and no surveys, while a contract was recklessly given for 113 miles. The cost had been estimated at \$30,000 a mile, and amounted to \$45,000. He thought the floating of the loan in London was a good policy, as the English money was of great value to Ontario, and investors would be interested in the Province and be led to further investment. He moved the adjournment of the debate at 9.50.

The House then adjourned.

Mr. Lucas' bill respecting telephone companies operating in Ontario provides for the control of rates, and is intended to procure an expression of opinion on this question.

PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE SOUNDS NOTE OF WARNING

Trenton and Brockville Are Offenders—
Money Spent on Water Power by
Trenton—Brockville Will Have a
Theatre—Stratford's Bill.

Chairman Carscallen, in the Private Bills Committee, found it necessary yesterday to issue a general warning to municipalities which are not careful about their sinking funds. Officers and Aldermen may find themselves in an unpleasant position, he declared, when these funds are trifled with. The town of Trenton, in which connection the question was raised, was told that no further debt must be contracted except for current expenses, but the advice was not confined to Trenton. Mr. Carscallen believed the money in the present instance had been honestly expended, but the committee must set their faces against the subversion of sinking funds. The Trenton bill provided for the consolidation of a debt of \$53,267 by the issue of "water power debentures," the sinking fund having been used for maintaining water power for industrial purposes, and the returns not having equalled expectations. With a stringent proviso against a recurrence of the incident the bill was reported.

Brockville also failed to make deposits on the town sinking funds in 1885, 1889 and 1892, and this deficiency of \$4,097, with a further loss in the reduction of interest rates from 4 1-2 to 3 1-2, renders it necessary to borrow \$10,000 to pay into the fund. In order to provide accommodation for the fire department \$7,000 is required. A bill enabling the town to raise these sums by debentures and loan was reported. Part of the plan is to construct a theatre and public hall.

Some enterprising citizens of Stratford have organized the "Stratford Improvement Co., Limited," and an agreement was made between them and the city fixing the assessment for a tract of 200 acres, which is to be brought into the city, at \$9,500, for twelve years. The company undertakes to spend \$100,000 in three years or forfeit the bonus, and also \$1,000 on sewers every year for twelve years. Strong objection was taken by Mr. E. Sydney Smith, representing other citizens, 250 of whom petitioned against the bill presented to confirm the by-law respecting the agreement. Chairman Carscallen considered it a very extensive bonusing proposition, and consideration of the bill was laid over.