

THE NORTHLAND AND ITS NEEDS.

Mr. C. N. Smith, M.P.P., Talks
of New Ontario,

A PULP WOOD POLICY.

Some Observations Regarding
the Prophet Whitney.

The Two Millions that the Premier
Said Might as Well Have Gone Into
Toronto Bay Saved the Lake Superior
Company, and at Not a Dollar of
Final Cost to Ontario.

Mr. Smith of the Soo had the floor for twenty minutes before 6 on Thursday afternoon in the Legislature and went on for another hour in the evening. He was talking on the financial statement brought down by the Provincial Treasurer, but his theme was chiefly new Ontario and the settlers. He congratulated the Government upon the appointment of a resident of new Ontario to the portfolio of Lands, Forests and Mines, which he considered the most important department of the Administration. He thought perhaps it was a good thing for the Province that there had been a change of Government, because that change had brought about a dissolution of the old school of pessimists, which threatened the peace of the Province, and it was gratifying to him to observe that the chief of the pessimists of other days—the hon. Provincial Treasurer—had become the greatest optimist of them all. He observed with satisfaction that the Government were pushing the Temiskaming Railway on to a junction with the Grand Trunk Pacific, but he regretted that it had been found necessary to dispose of six million gold dollars of the rich Province of Ontario at ninety-six cents each.

Wealth Untold, Bonds at Discount.

Within a stone's throw of Cobalt there were about twenty producing silver mines. The Standard Oil Company's property was valued at \$12,000,000. The Timmins people had recently refused an offer of \$5,000,000 for their property. The Tretheway, the Foster, the University, the McKinley and Darroch, and several others were grouped around this point, and the speaker thought it would be safe to say that the twenty producers could at this moment be disposed of at from forty thousand to a million dollars. That being the case, it seemed unfortunate that the bonds of the Province issued for the purpose of constructing a line of railway through one of the earth's greatest treasure-houses had to be disposed of at a discount. He would not for a moment question the integrity of the Provincial Treasurer, he believed he had done his best and was honestly serving the Province, but the speaker felt that the Treasurer had committed a serious error of judgment in not holding on to these bonds until he could at least realize one hundred cents on the dollar.

A New Timber Policy.

Mr. Smith then turned his attention to the timber policy of the present and past Administrations, and pointed out wherein, in his opinion, some improve-

ments might be made. He thought that one of the first acts of this Government should be to appoint a board of estimators or appraisers, men having a practical knowledge of the country, whose duty it should be to separate the agricultural country from the timber areas where farming land was not found. He pointed out that there were hundreds of settlers up there living on lands that were entirely unsuitable for agricultural pursuits, and as the timber on these lands was not given to the settlers they found great difficulty in working out a bare existence. It was not fair to the settler to locate him on such land, but since he had been located the least the Government should do would be to give him the timber on his lot and everything above and below the ground. The speaker said he was glad to hear the Provincial Treasurer say in presenting his financial statement: "We have millions in our forests and millions in our mines, and we intend spending it in the development of the country." If the Government would keep that pledge Mr. Smith said he would be satisfied, and in order to assist them in working out a policy which would be of the greatest advantage to the whole Province, he wished to propound a plan which, if intelligently worked out, would, he believed, add at least one million dollars a year to the revenues of the Province.

Stay the Axe.

The Hon. Mr. Cochrane had stated in the House a day or two ago that he thought it might be well to prohibit the cutting of pine under ten inches in diameter. Mr. Smith's idea was that the restriction should extend up to fourteen inches, but the calculation he wished to lay before the House placed the minimum size of the pine tree that may be cut at twelve inches in diameter. He then went on to explain that a ten-inch tree would in ten years have grown to be a twelve-inch tree, and under the Doyle rule which is in vogue in this Province the approximate increase in the cubic content of the wood would be eighty per cent. He estimated that the annual cut of pine trees averaging not more than ten inches would be about two hundred million feet, and his proposal was that this timber should be allowed to stand for another ten years. The results, Mr. Smith contended, would be amazingly profitable to the Province. He showed by a comprehensive set of figures that the stumpage dues alone on the increased quantity of timber would bring the Province in an increased net revenue of \$360,000 per annum, and the bonus on the ten years' growth, which would mean one hundred and sixty million feet, would represent at four dollars per thousand feet a further net profit of \$640,000, making the total annual net profit to the Province through such a policy of \$960,000. It was true, he said, that if this plan were employed the Government would find it necessary to defer for ten years \$400,000 per annum of its present revenue, but the speaker pointed out that if the Province could not get along on the reduced revenue during that period the Government would be justified in borrowing at four per cent. for its immediate requirements.

The Pulpwood Question.

The member for the Soo then turned to a discussion of the pulpwood question, and disagreed from the previous speakers on the Government side of the House who advocated the policy employed by the Province of Quebec. In Mr. Smith's opinion the policy of the late Administration was the best policy for the Province, inasmuch as it encouraged the establishment of industries within our own boundary, created employment for our own workmen and provided a market for the settlers in our rural territory. The three pulp mills that had been established under this policy at the Soo, Espanola and Sturgeon Falls had served all three of these purposes, and they are all on a successful operating basis. Such was not the case in the Province of Quebec, where the spruce wood could be taken out of the country