

leaving the university question Graham said the people were asking was not nearly time that there was permanent President. No doubt there are difficulties, the authorities were anxious to get the best possible man, in a year was surely a long time in which to make a selection, and while there was unrest as to whom the choice could be the people would hardly be in sympathy with the institution. He suggested that the Government might urge speed in securing a President.

The Public Schools.

Continuing, Mr. Graham paid some attention to the question of public schools, and in this connection dwelt upon the manner in which the bill of last session had been altered from the measure as first introduced because it was opposed by members on the Government side of the House. The House and the country had deduced from the manner of dealing with it that there was something wrong with the Department of Education, and had looked for a measure remedying that. The Opposition, in spite of all attempts to do so, had failed to obtain from the Minister of Education any explanation of how the bill as finally introduced would affect the country, but nevertheless they had stood then as they stood now, for any measure intended to raise the standard of education. The Minister of Education had been unable to tell what the effect would be, because he had no men near the top in his department who had had any experience in or sympathy with the great public school system. This was one reason why the bill had been subjected to criticism throughout the country, and members sitting behind the Treasury benches had taken a much stronger stand against it than anyone else in public meetings and elsewhere. What the Minister of Education ought to do was to have a man near the top of his department, Superintendent or Deputy Minister, selected from those who had attended, or taught, or at least who had been inspectors of the public schools. He read from some of the circulars to the inspectors authorized by the Minister to show what difficulties had been met with in the enforcement of the act. But the inspectors could not bring about peace, and the Government, as announced in the statement of the Premier on Friday, had now decided to cover the retreat of that bill with an additional grant to the schools of over \$200,000. Mr. Graham somewhat jocularly attributed a large amount of credit for the additional vote to the member for Dufferin (Dr. Lewis) (who, according to newspapers reports, had public expressed condemnation of the bill.

Dr. Lewis declared the reports to be incorrect. The paper first publishing it was a Liberal paper.

Mr. Graham accepted the explanation of the hon. gentleman that the credit was not due to him.

For Free Text-books.

Proceeding, he declared his belief that the number of school books in the lower grades at any rate could be greatly reduced. It was a shame to see little boys and girls, who should be romping home from school, carrying home large bundles of books. The number of books should and could be reduced with benefit to the children, and it should also be made absolutely illegal to give these children any home work. "There is another point," said Mr. Graham. "I believe that, with the buoyant revenue of this Province, now is the time to supply text-books to every school, public and separate, as part of the school equipment, free of all cost." The Premier had, while in Opposition, advocated this, and the Minister of Education had recently declared that he was personally in favor of it. He (the speaker) was absolutely in favor of it.

Should Curb Wildcatting.

The development of northern Ontario, and in particular the silver fields of the

Cobalt district, were then alluded to. Incidentally Mr. Graham expressed the opinion that in the north the iron deposits would be found to be of immense richness. In connection with this great mineral development the Opposition, he said, were prepared to do anything that they could so as to assist the Government in perfecting the law so that the greatest good would result to the greatest number. "There is one thing which we on this side of the House will condemn most strongly," he said, "and that is the wildcatting. I say it advisedly, that the wildcat capitalization allowed in the Cobalt district has become almost a scandal in this Province. It is said that mining companies have already been chartered with a capitalization of \$300,000,000, and there are more to follow. Some person has made the remark that the Government could not control that. But they could do something. I believe it is the duty of the Government to examine absolutely every application for a mining claim, as they do to some extent, but I believe that the investigation is not sufficiently thorough. There should be such a thorough investigation that when a company applies for a charter the Government will have an idea of what the capitalization should be. It does not seem right that persons should pay five, six or seven thousand dollars in one Government department for mining lands, walk to another department and get a charter saying that the property is worth half a million dollars, and then come to me or anyone else and ask for subscriptions to the stock on that basis. While such a plan as I have suggested may mean more officials, we cannot be too careful to see that the interests of the people are safeguarded." Mr. Graham contended that if something was not done to curb this wildcatting, legitimate capital would be frightened away from the Province, which would get a bad name, especially among those whose investments we should be most anxious to have, namely, the British capitalists.

Make Titles Unassailable.

The matter of titles was touched upon. Rightly or wrongly, when this Government came into power the idea seemed to get abroad that upon apparently slight provocation it would be easy to have titles cancelled. Acting on this suggestion, many lawyers of the lower strata had undertaken actions, it was said, on terms that if they got certain titles cancelled they would get so much. The idea getting abroad that there was any possibility of defective titles had injured the Cobalt country. One company had taken the circumstance as an excuse to rob—that was too strong a word perhaps—to depress a certain stock through which millions of dollars were lost by the public. "The Government have a duty to perform," he said, "not only to protect the investor even if the necessary inspection should take weeks or months, but to make their titles absolutely good against attack."

The leader also regarded the smelter question as one which the Government should consider. The providing of such a facility was in the interest of the whole north country. A smelter might be profitably established at some convenient point on Georgian Bay.

Make Companies Tell.

"I believe it is in the interest of the investing public of Ontario," he continued, "and in the interest of our own north country, that this Government undertake to publish once a month the amount of business done, so far as shipping is concerned, by the various mining companies. Then the public would have something reliable on which to base their investments."

To the Minister of Mines Mr. Graham submitted this suggestion: "Would it not be a good idea if an extension of the Temiskaming Railway were made from North Bay to some point on Georgian Bay, say to Parry Sound? They were asking for connection with Toronto by the Grand Trunk. If the road were extended to some point on Georgian Bay we would have connection with North Bay by the G.T.R. and C.P.R. east, west and south, and with the C.P.R., C.N.R. and G.T.R. would have three available routes to Toronto."

Mr. Graham scored the Government for having abandoned absolutely the

promotion of forestry and dwelt upon the necessity for some system of re-forestation. He censured the Government that Dr. Clark should have left their employ, and believed his departure was due to the fact that his hands were tied. He suggested a practical department of forestry for the Province, while encouraging the study of forestry in the university.

Touching on the question of prison labor, Mr. Graham said:—"I want to put it down unequivocally as part of our policy in this House. We are opposed to contract labor in the Central Prison under any terms.

Municipal Ownership.

"I want to point out that the great Liberal party have taken a very advanced stand in any question of municipal ownership. During their regime towns were given the right to acquire systems of waterworks, telephone systems and street railways. Under a Liberal Government the people built a railway into the heart of New Ontario. The Liberal party have been the party of the ownership of public utilities by the people."

The Power Question.

Speaking on the power question, Mr. Graham said that if it had not been for the action of the leader of the Government of days gone past there would have been no development of power, there would have been no need of a "Minister of Power," there would have been no power ready for distribution in this Province.

Someone on the Government side interrupted with the remark, "And there would have been no Niagara Falls."

"The Falls are not any larger," Mr. Graham retorted, promptly, "than a certain fall which may take place if the power question is not handled properly." He carefully reviewed the history of power development at the Falls, showing that while on the American side there had been early development, it had been impossible for years to get any capitalists to undertake similar works on this side, although in the earliest stages the company which got the first charter had a monopoly. He outlined in brief the various agreements under which the companies now developing on the Canadian side are operating, showing that, in addition to assuring half the power for Canadian manufacturers and consumers at not more than the price at which it is supplied to Americans, when the works are fully developed they will bring to the Province in the way of direct revenue for rentals and a fixed price per horsepower the sum of \$275,000 per year. With the progress of development on the Canadian side, he continued, the municipalities of the Province began to awaken and to ask for power, and the Government allowed a Municipal Power Commission to be appointed. The report of that body had been read and considered by the present Hydro-electric Power Commission, as shown by references to its work in the present commission's reports. That commission had been invested with all the powers of the present body, with the exception of expropriation, and he firmly believed that if the companies had refused to deal with that Municipal Commission the Legislature would have refused to support any Government which would not have passed legislation to compel them to do so. The Opposition were heartily in sympathy with anything that could be done to give cheap power to the people of the Province. They believed in the rights of capital; capital should be guarded against unwarranted attacks, but capitalists ought to keep faith with the people. When a company put enough water in its stock to almost float its bond issue it was not keeping faith. "We," said Mr. Graham, "are prepared to give the companies a fair return for their investments, but we are prepared to stand by any Government who say 'not one cent dividends on watered stock.'" Mr. Graham pointed out that, while there was a transmission line from the Falls to Toronto, there were no transmission lines to western Ontario. "What are the Government going to do?" he asked. "I believe that the time may come when the Government will have to go to the extent of establishing transmission lines from the Falls to the municipalities."

The Premier—And then what?