

Forward is the "ord.

Mr. Graham—"It will be the duty of the Government to give the people power at the prices they have said through the commission they would." The leader of the Opposition then laid down the platform given at the commencement of this report, and in conclusion said:—"The Liberal party is not going to continue riding with its back to the engine. We propose as a party throughout this Province to act and live in the present for the future. We propose to build on the fundamental and great principles of Liberalism, that every man is equal before the State, and the greatest good to the greatest number."

Prime Minister's Reply.

Premier Whitney was enthusiastically received when he rose to reply to the leader of the Opposition. He congratulated himself that the leader of the Opposition had endorsed every act of the Government during the past year. He had said in effect that the Government had intended to do right, their motives were good, but their operation was not.

Replying to the assertion of Mr. Graham that there had been no mention of law reform in the address, the Premier said: "There is a great deal suggested in the speech from the throne in the way of law reform. In a year from to-day he will find that a great deal suggested in the speech has been brought forward and carried into effect."

The Premier asserted that from the day the Government took office they had gone to great trouble and had granted considerable expenditure in order to bring proper immigrants to the Province. "It is a matter only second to the question of education," he said, "which in our opinion is the question of first importance."

The Premier was tempted to retort to Mr. Graham's assertion that there had always been a surplus. "There has always been a surplus," he said, "but it has never been in cash."

Some Light on Subsidy.

Replying to charges against the Government in reference to the Provincial Conference, the Premier undertook to lay the blame on the acts of the former Premier at the first session of the Provincial Conference at Ottawa. Had it not been for his attitude at that time Mr. Whitney believed the Provincial subsidy would be greatly in excess of the present figures. The system presented difficulties, but it should be possible that periodical applications for increases could be made as conditions altered.

The Premier admitted that the President of the university should be selected at as early a date as possible. The Government did not appoint the President, he said, and they believed that delay would be better than undue haste. The rumors that trouble existed in the Department of Education the Premier denied. There was not, he declared, a reputable newspaper in Ontario, including The Globe, the greatest Liberal newspaper in the Dominion of Canada, that did not think the education bill was a good one.

Chester School Books.

The Premier desired to know why Mr. Graham had never touched upon the matter of school books and home work before. "During all the years he has been in this House he never—"

"I have expressed the same views on these questions in this House before," interrupted Mr. Graham.

"My friend can wriggle out of it any way he chooses," said Mr. Whitney.

"But I assure you that in much the same language I did express such views, and (with a smile) I was accused of heresy for it."

"Then they rejected the heresy but retained the heretic," remarked Premier Whitney.

Continuing, the Premier said: "Will my hon. friend feel surprised when I state that school books will be supplied so cheaply that the people will hardly believe the difference. The 'school book ring,' which was protected by the former Government for years, will probably, under this Administration, be willing to give school books at a much lower

rate."

The Provincial Loan.

The Premier wondered that his hon. friend had not mentioned the recent Provincial loan and the success which had attended its flotation, a flotation which had been made without a dollar of expenditure, except for the advertisement in the newspapers. It occurred to him (the Premier) that he might also say in connection with the loan that there was no mention of anybody getting \$25,000 commission.

Praises Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

The Premier did not know that he had anything to say at this time in regard to Mr. Graham's references to the mining situation. That would probably come at a later period, and he would then, he thought, be able to show how carefully the Government had acted with reference to the control of mining properties. In this connection he said the people of the Province had been fortunate in obtaining the services of the gentleman (Hon. Mr. Cochrane) who conducts the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines. In addition to being a man of the highest character, that gentleman was the equal in capacity of any man who ever sat on the Treasury benches of the Legislature.

The Government, he proceeded, had given the question of forestry a good deal of consideration, and had indeed done more than that, and if the Government neglected this important matter they would have to stand the consequences of their act. As to the Central Prison system, he was surprised to learn from his hon. friend, who had conducted the department, having charge of it for three months, and for years had supported a Government who had charge of that institution, that the prisoners were not treated as human beings. He would not have thought that his hon. friend would be a party to such a state of affairs.

Public Ownership.

On the public ownership question it was evident that the hon. gentleman meant that the House should not understand what his remarks in relation to that meant. The Premier likened the course of the late Administration in this regard, and especially in connection with water-powers, to the characteristic of the Bourbons who for so long ruled France, and of whom it was said that they never forgot and never learned. He alluded at this point to the speech delivered by Hon. Geo. W. Ross, during the last session of the House, on the power question, saying that that gentleman had been fed with material during his address by a Secretary of one of the power companies. The conclusion had at that time been forced upon the Government, after listening to the then remarkable speech of the then leader of the Opposition, that the companies had told him that he had to give some return for what they had done for him. He (the speaker) would not have made that statement unless he had good reason for doing so, and he was ready to discuss it at any time. His hon. friend, Mr. Graham, had, the Premier thought, utterly failed to appreciate and realize what the meaning of the power legislation was to the people of Ontario. He seemed blind to the fact that he was making it impossible for the people of Ontario to accept him as the custodian of their interests. As to watered stock, the Premier said that he knew nothing about stock in any companies except what he read of them, but he ventured to say that the watered stock the hon. gentleman said existed in the Niagara companies was not the stock in which the late Government were interested.

Respecting the other items in the speech from the throne, the Premier thought he could not do much better than to quote from a recent newspaper editorial, which he proceeded to do. The editorial was, of course, quite eulogistic of the Government.

Full Discussion Invited.

Opportunity would be given, the Premier went on, for a full discussion of

all these questions during the session, and he hoped that the members would take advantage of that to express their views. The Government would go on doing their best as usual, and when they failed in that respect, then they would have to face the position such failure would inevitably bring. He paid a tribute to the Railway and Municipal Board and its work in the few months since it was appointed, and, in conclusion, reverted a moment to Cobalt, asking the members of the House to try to imagine for one moment what would have been the condition of affairs there if the late Government had not been defeated and had continued to have the management of that district.

Mr. Studholme, Labor member for East Hamilton, said that if the Government brought in square legislation in the interests of labor he would support them, and also that he would support any similar measure if advocated by the Opposition.

The address was then carried and the House adjourned to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Select Committees.

Prior to the commencement of the debate the following committees were appointed, on motion of the Premier:—Select Committee to assist the Speaker in the care of the library—The Premier, Hon. Messrs. Foy, Matheson, Pyne, Hendrie, Hanna, Messrs. Lucas, MacKay, Harcourt, Graham and Preston (Brant).

To strike the standing committees ordered by the House: Hon. Messrs. Foy, Matheson, Willoughby, Preston (Lanark), Mahaffy, Thompson (Simcoe), Hoyle, Clark (Bruce), MacKay, Pense, Graham, Preston (Brant), Bowman.

To direct the expenditure of any sum set apart in the estimates for art purposes: The Speaker, Hon. Messrs. Whitney, Foy, Matheson, Hendrie, Graham, Harcourt and Preston (Brant).

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) on Thursday next will inquire as to the expenditure on Central Prison contracts, salaries in the woodworking department and cost of plant utilized by Ellen C. Taylor, and will ask if it is the intention of the Government to cancel this contract.

Mr. Preston (Brant) will on Thursday move that in the opinion of the House every child has a right to health and education, that child labor interferes with this right, and that no child under fourteen should work in a factory or place of employment, and that no child between fourteen and sixteen be permitted to work unless he or she can read and write. Other restrictions are specified. Mr. Ferguson (Grenville) gives notice of a bill to amend the municipal act.