

ber for Prince Edward was almost despaired of, and he was sure that the news that he was making a speedy recovery would be welcomed with pleasure. (Applause.)

Proceeding, Mr. MacKay said that during the debate the observer must have been struck, as being most peculiar, by the references made by speakers from the Government side of the House to addresses delivered by members of the Opposition. Members of the Opposition had distinctly stated that they did not desire to make a political speech, but preferred to make suggestions. That was following the policy which had been adopted during the last two or three years, of taking five subjects and making suggestions which the House would do well to consider. It was a known fact that the Hon. Richard Harcourt had spoken in many different centres on the great question of technical education, urging the importance of those who were to engage in skilled labor to be educated in such a way as to understand intelligently the scientific principles which underlay their work. Such suggestions were, he contended, of far greater value than their criticism.

A Discordant Note.

He was glad that on the whole the level of the debate had been pretty high and pretty fair. "Only one discordant note," said Mr. MacKay, "has been sounded by the member for Centre Bruce, who said that in occupying the position I find myself occupying I have not a united party behind me. I beg to take distinct exception to that." (Cheers.)

Proceeding, Mr. MacKay said that, while some members of the Opposition had expressed their intention of not again offering themselves for election to the Legislature, they had arrived at their decisions long before he was elected to the leadership, and he was sure that "none will leave on account of the present leadership." (Cheers.)

Passing on to financial questions, the leader of the Opposition commented on the fact that both the mover and second of the address had congratulated the Provincial Treasurer on the fact that there would probably be a surplus. "It would be a strange thing," he said, "if we did not have a surplus."

Mr. Whitney—Hear! hear!

Mr. MacKay—When we look at the estimates brought down last year, the statement made by the Provincial Treasurer, and compare them with the complacent statement that a surplus of at least \$500,000 is expected, I do not see any great reason for congratulation. I find that the estimated excess of receipts over expenditure was \$1,093,156. When we consider the channels through which the revenue flows, when we remember that some of them were opposed by gentlemen now sitting on the Treasury benches, I am not sure that the Government are to be subjects of congratulation.

Where It Comes From.

Proceeding, the speaker referred to the succession duties act, the supplementary revenue act, the brewers and distillers act, all of which had met with opposition, when brought in by the old Government, at the hands of the Conservative party, but which had alone brought in \$9,000,000 to the Provincial Treasury.

It had been estimated that the succession duties would bring in \$700,000, and so far as he could ascertain from unofficial reports the receipts were about \$800,000. That was an act which had been opposed by certain members of the present Government, and had their wishes prevailed the revenue from that source would have been reduced by at least one-half. The supplementary revenue act, designed to impose a just burden of taxation on wealthy corporations, which could not be reached by the municipal assessor, had been estimated to bring in \$640,000, and he thought the actual receipts would be found to exceed that sum. That too had been opposed by the present Government. "If it is true," said Mr. MacKay, "that \$775,000 has been collected under that act, the credit is due to the Liberal party, and not to the present occupants of the Treasury benches."

New Sources of Revenue.

The brewers and distillers act had also been estimated to bring in the handsome sum of \$75,000. To summarize the position from five acts, the work of the late Government, the Treasury had been enriched since the acts had been in operation by \$9,163,304.

This was without reckoning the benefits which had accrued from the development of the north country as a result of the building of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway. In 1902 the receipts from mines amount-

ed to \$27,000. Then came the discovery of Cobalt, and last year the receipts from mining lands and royalties on minerals amounted to \$1,600,000. Again last year the Province had for the first time received the increased subsidy of \$400,000 from the Dominion Government, so that through two sources of revenue from which the late Government had no benefit upwards of \$2,000,000 flowed into the treasury.

"Having regard for the past," said Mr. MacKay, "that the receipts were so much larger and knowing where the money comes from, let us follow it out and see exactly where this large sum has gone to."

The Right Conception.

Passing from finance, the Opposition leader proceeded to contrast the methods of the two Governments with regard to the problem of New Ontario. He did not say that all the old Government did was right, but he made the broad statement that when, in the course of time, the work of Governments was got into proper perspective it would be declared that the Liberal Administration had the proper conception of what should be done for the development and benefit of the Province. To prove his argument he would take the case which Conservative speakers had chosen: the bargains made by the two Governments with the Montreal River Company with regard to its pulp concession. The old Government in 1902 made a bargain with the Montreal River Company under which the concessionaires were required to build a mill north of Pembroke valued at \$500,000, of a capacity of 150 tons and employing 250 hands. The present Minister of Lands and Forests, however, found a company which had already erected a mill at Ottawa and entered into a contract with it. That mill was of three times the capacity of the one which had been required to be erected at Pembroke, and under the arrangement \$300,000 more came into the treasury.

A Contrast of Policies.

"The member for North York (Mr. T. H. Lennox," said Mr. MacKay, "who I am bound to say in my humble judgment made the most incisive, logical and by long odds the best speech of

those made on the Government side of the House, asked the pertinent question, 'What is the difference where the mill is so long as the money comes into the treasury?' For myself I say that the old contract expressed the colonizing idea of the old Government. When a pulp mill was established four miles from Webbwood, on the Spanish River, there happened what will show us the difference between these two contracts. When the mill was established at Espanola the settler moved back, and as he cut his timber there he found a market at his door. (Cheers.) What will the poor settler do under the new agreement? The old agreement, I believe, contained the proper colonizing idea, so that as the great and valuable clothing of forest timber was removed the settler found a market at his door and was so far assisted in the development of the country."

Under the new contract, proceeded Mr. MacKay, the country was denuded of timber before the settler arrived. The settler found it "bedeviled" and did not have the advantages of the profit from the timber which he gained under the old contract. "I do not believe," continued the speaker, "that the paltry sum of \$300,000, or three times \$300,000, would make up for the difference between the two policies." (Cheers.)

Manufacture in Canada.

Proceeding, Mr. MacKay said that under the old Government the policy of developing New Ontario had been pushed forward. The Liberal party had declared it the duty to send men into the north country to find out its possibilities with regard to arable lands and waterpowers, and in spirit and intention that policy, as expressed by the difference between the two agreements, was far in advance of the new.

The late Government had been a constructive one. Not only had it built the T. & N. O., but it had assisted an industry at the "Soo" which was national in its character. It had prevented the great industry of steel-rolling being entirely controlled by the United States. It had maintained an industry which had produced, since that assistance had been given, \$20,000,000 of steel rails, and paid its employees \$6,000,000. "We have now the Grand Trunk Pacific, which is to be built on entirely Canadian soil. How much better it would be if we could think that there were sufficient mills in Canada to turn out rails so that the road could not only be built on Canadian soil, but of Canadian steel manufactured by Canadians." (Cheers.)

Law Reform.

Dealing with the question of law reform, the leader of the Opposition said that he did not at the moment intend to be critical with regard to the resolution which had been brought forward by the Attorney-General. He expressed regret, however, that no substantial measure of law reform was to be brought down this session, and contrasted the proposals tentatively made with what had been actually accomplished by the late Government. It was unfortunate that the Government had not availed themselves of the opportunity offered by the revision and consolidation of the statutes to bring down a measure. That it was not intended to do so he inferred from the fact that the resolution referred to applying to the Dominion and Imperial Parliaments for legislation which might be considered necessary. "I fear," he said, "that if we are to have no measure of law reform until then we shall have to wait a long time."

Mr. Whitney—We have no fear.

Mr. MacKay added that it would have been possible for a measure to be brought down making reforms which could have been carried out without any appeal to either the Dominion or Imperial Parliaments.

The Attorney-General—It is covered by the resolution.

Mr. MacKay—If it does mean that we are to have such a measure, then I have to compliment the hon. gentleman rather than otherwise. I understood and heard that a commission was to be appointed.

Mr. Whitney—Don't believe all you hear.

Make a Straight Bargain.

Mr. MacKay said that a question which could be dealt with was the cutting off of the practice under which county and district Judges were one day working for salary and the next paid by fees. Its abolition would relieve the Judges of the charge of protracting proceedings in order to increase the amount of their fees. He also expressed himself as being strongly in favor of permitting lawyers to make a straight bargain with their clients with regard to remuneration, instead of being paid on taxed bills of costs. That would remove the inducement existing for dishonest lawyers—and 95 per cent. of the profession were too honest, said the speaker, amid laughter—to prolong litigation. "The public," he declared, "want a measure of law reform under which the cost of litigation will be cheapened and judgments expedited."

Problems of Education.

Mr. MacKay scored the Government severely with respect to their education policy. He criticized the measure under which teachers in public schools in rural districts were to be paid according to the assessment of the township, pointing out that when the proposal was made the Minister of Education had not made any calculation as to how it would work. The clause was then given an eight-day hoist and amended. He agreed in the desirability of obtaining permanency in the teaching profession, and at the time had urged that the best way to gain it was in the making of larger grants to those schools which employed senior and experienced teachers than to such as engaged junior and inexperienced instructors. He also commented on the statement made in the course of the address that the present Government had given cheaper school books to the Province. It was true that after having decided to bring in new Readers the Government had extended the contract for the old books for eighteen months. Naturally the printers desired to get rid of their stock. "It is largely a bargain-counter sale," declared Mr. MacKay. "But what about the cost of the new Readers? With regard to that I prefer to take the opinion of one of the commissioners. The business man on the commission, Mr. John A. Cooper, has stated: 'This reduction in price may last one and a half years. What will happen then is only a matter of suggestion. The probability is that if the new set of Readers is prepared, and the paper and binding brought up to date, the prices will go back to the old figure, if not higher.'" Turning to another phase of the question, he condemned the proposal to cut off a number of the

model schools. The result would be that many farmers' sons and daughters would be robbed of opportunities to get further education. Many of the people would not be able to send their children into the cities in order to attend the normal schools, and they would be deprived of the chance to qualify for the teaching profession. This would react upon the Province as a whole. Equally strong was he in his condemnation of the regulations with regard to entrance examinations. The