

regulations permitted the Principal of a school to pass candidates without examination in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, and grammar, all the elementary subjects, while they must be examined in chemistry, physics, geometry, and algebra, with Latin as a bonus. "I am, in the judgment of the business men of the country," said the speaker, "when I say that what we need is not more subjects, but more attention to elementary subjects; more thoroughness and accuracy." (Cheers.) The neglect of the elementary subjects would have a serious effect on the country, for if their teachers were not instructed, then the effect would filter back to the hearthstones of the Province. "There are two difficulties in connection with the educational system," said the Liberal leader. "The first with regard to the claim of the farmer's son and daughter to get as full an education as they like without moving into the town."

Mr. Whitney—Hear, hear!
"I have not seen any practical steps in that direction, and they are not contained in the regulations I have read. Those regulations will never bring about the proper training in elementary work in city, town or country." Mr. MacKay also dwelt on the importance of technical education to enable the mechanics of the Province to have an intelligent comprehension of the principles underlying their trade.

The Three-fifths Clause.

Proceeding, Mr. MacKay said: "There is another point on which I desire to say a few words, and that is with regard to the three-fifths clause. We on this side of the House two years ago and last year divided the House on this question. The 'yeas' and 'nays' were taken, and I should have that reasonable indication as to where we were on this question. We hold the view that the majority and not the minority should rule. (Cheers.) I am not going to trouble the House with more than a passing reference to the argument that this law is such a peculiar one that it needs a strong public sentiment, sixty per cent., behind it. Well, if after the carrying of the act an effort was made to repeal it 59 per cent. of the vote might be in favor of repeal and 41 per cent. against it, and yet the law, with public sentiment strongly against it, would still be in force. This showed the fallacy of attempting to enforce such a law on any other principle than that of the majority."

Mr. MacKay added:—"Public opinion will settle down one way or the other. It will decide whether the law has worked well or not. I say that the question is one which can be fairly decided by the majority of the people."

Power Question.

The leader of the Opposition then dealt with the power question. He was sure that a great portion of the Province would like to know where they stood with reference to it, especially those municipalities in which the by-law had been passed. His recollection was that under the act before a municipality signed articles with the Hydro-electric Power Commission the commission should send them an estimate, and before the by-law was voted upon not only should the by-law be published, but the estimate and the provisional contract. "So far as I am aware, not in a single municipality where a vote has been taken has this been done. Therefore the question is whether these municipalities are in a position to complete this contract now and have the work go on. I merely raise the question as an interrogation, and ask if these municipalities must again vote on the by-law and if these estimates for transmission lines must be given again, and whether the vote already taken is nothing more than a plebiscite. I have no doubt we shall hear from the Government on that."

In conclusion Mr. MacKay said that surprise had been expressed that members of the Opposition had not entered into lengthy criticism of the Government. "Let me assure the House that we do not consider it our public duty to criticize everything. The duty of a public man is to oppose what is not good, and in working for the people of the Province we believe in the old utilitarian adage, 'The greatest good for the greatest number.'"

A Peculiar Debate.

Premier Whitney devoted several sentences in opening to expressing regret that one member of the Legislature had passed away and that several members were ill. Regarding Hon. Dr. Willoughby, he stated that that Minister and Hon. Mr. Harcourt were the only men at present members when he entered the House first. In twenty years' experience he had never known a debate similar to the one he was

concluding, and he paid a tribute to the fair play and straightforward methods adopted by Hon. Mr. Graham when leader of the Opposition. The latter had appreciated his duty to the Province when he collaborated with him (Mr. Whitney) in carrying on the business of the House. Three years had passed and the Government had done their duty, he said, day by day, and the Government majority had increased month by month, and, therefore, he simply chose to echo some of the things preceding speakers had made mention of. In the usual course of British procedure the attitude adopted by Oppositions was one of criticism. Continuing along this line, Mr. Whitney stated that the leader of the Opposition had apologized for the speech made by the member on his left (Hon. Mr. Harcourt), because the latter in his speech along educational lines had not found ground for criticism.

"I don't think the member for Monck will thank the leader of the Opposition for that," he said.

A Pulp Transfer.

The Premier next dealt with the Montreal River pulp transfer on the part of the late Government, a bargain made in secret, the door even being shut against the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Fifteen thousand square miles of pulpwood had been bargained away, and so profitable had the deal looked that a member of the purchasing syndicate who was a lawyer had stated that he did not care if he ever held another brief. There was no public competition whatever, he added, and the concession was taken away from them.

"Never again so long as this Government remains in power will the scandalous conduct of the late Government be reproduced in bargaining away Ontario's heritage without the people having any say in the bargain."

That action had branded the late Government as so corrupt as not to be touched with a pair of tongs, he said. Yet the leader of the Opposition was enabled to receive the blandishments of the then Premier and take office among "this ill-smelling convention." The leader of the Opposition should then have summoned up sufficient backbone to have refused.

"It will be a long, long day before the people will give authority into the hands of one who brought such disgrace upon this Province," he added.

Considerations Were Passed.

Continuing, he stated that regarding the pulp and timber resolution referred to by Hon. Mr. MacKay, he had spoken only of the woods north of the height of land. In other places he presumed they did not want public competition. "I have no doubt that with certain actions that were passed upon in this secret way considerations passed from one side to the other. I think they passed from both sides."

The Opposition leader, he said, had mentioned the colonization effects of the pulp policy of the late Government, but Mr. Whitney stated that a mill had then been built at Pembroke, on the Ottawa River, and he wanted to know if there was much difference between Pembroke and Ottawa so far as the colonization purposes were concerned. On the line of the T. & N. O., he added, the settler could find a ready market for pulpwood at \$4 to \$5 a cord.

Stamp Out Examinations.

Coming to educational topics, he stated that if there was one thing more than another that should be stamped out it was the system of examinations. He expressed the opinion that about two million dollars would be expended for educational purposes this year after the grants to urban schools had been arranged. Last year the member for Kingston had stated that the Opposition had no fault to find with the financial side of the Government's educational policy, but regarding the speech of Hon. Mr. Harcourt, he was surprised, since he had anticipated trenchant criticism of the Government's attitude. In fact it was remarkable, he added, that the Opposition had allowed their leader to do all the criticizing.

The Metagami Reserve.

With reference to the charge regarding the Metagami reserve made by Mr. C. N. Smith, Premier Whitney had a word to say. Certain men, he said, had obtained a concession of "burnt timber" on one side of a certain river. In that concession of "burnt timber" they had cut millions of feet of lumber. They even had crossed the river where they had no right to go, and the Minister of Crown Lands of the late Government had condoned their action. There was only the pencil mark of the Minister to show the boundaries of this concession.

Yet the men responsible for this deal walked about in the streets, and were not ashamed to look people in the face.

At this juncture in the Premier's speech a piece of the iron railing in the public gallery crashed down on a chandelier, causing momentary consternation.

The Premier—The suggestion I have made might well have caused a similar crash to that. (Laughter.)

Continuing, he stated that the present Government had made this syndicate pay over for the privileges \$50,000, and it had been paid.

"We have been going on increasing the expenditure of this Province, and, please God, we will continue to do so as long as the demands of the people call upon us to do that sort of thing," he said, as he introduced educational topics again by saying that almost every suggestion introduced by the leader of the Opposition had been pre-faced by "if."

The Model Schools.

"We are not going to close the model schools," he said, "and, therefore, my hon. friend was simply beating the air. We don't propose to do anything of the kind, but we have erected four new normal schools. If we did propose to close the model schools let us see what would happen. Those attending model schools have to pay fees and those attending model schools only teach for a short time. A student at the Normal School pays no fees and he or she gets a permanent certificate." (Applause.)

Proceeding, Mr. Whitney stated that he had argued while leader of the Opposition that the public schools should be self-centred and not the first of a series of gradations. He had always said that the public schools should not be stepping-stones to anything. The Government did not propose to allow anything to come between them and the final settlement of the question in this way. Branching into another subject, he stated that this was the first time in the history of the Province that the balance sheets of township Treasurers showed the payments of taxes by railways. They proposed, he said, to see that the amounts paid by railways should not be lessened. He called to mind the efforts made by Mr. H. J. Pettypiece, ex-M.P.P., for the taxing of railways.

The Three-fifths Clause.

The Premier's utterances regarding the "three-fifths clause" in the local option act were quite brief. He contented himself with simply reading the letter of a Presbyterian minister supporting the Government's attitude. From what the Minister of Agriculture had told him, the expenditure in that department last year amounted to \$59,000 as compared with \$415,000 in 1904, but he added that he felt the Minister had made an error or the expenditure would have been much higher.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction for me to-day to tell of the very great success of the agricultural schools last year. I am told by the newspapers that hundreds of people have been turned away from the agricultural schools during the last few weeks because of lack of accommodation. We will endeavor to make the most of the opportunities along this line as they present themselves." (Applause.)

A Summing Up.

Summing up what the Government had done, he mentioned first the closing of the pool rooms, the banishing of the numbered ballot, the legislation regarding the universities and the public schools, and before long they proposed giving grants to urban schools. That "monstrosity of the statute books," the County Councils act, had been changed, and besides there had been railway taxation, and they had also showed that the liquor license law could be enforced. In fact law reform was the only question left to be considered. When Sir Oliver Mowat had introduced his judicature act he had properly allowed it to stand over for twelve months.

Thanking The Globe.

"We have a great deal to thank The Globe newspaper for in the government of this country," exclaimed Mr. Whitney suddenly. "We are willing to take the editorials of The Globe for the last three years and use them for our campaign literature. We are willing to sign a bond not to use any other literature." (Laughter and applause.) The Globe newspaper has from time to time tendered its approval of what this Government has done, and only on two or three subjects has it criticized us."

Continuing, Mr. Whitney said The Globe had intimated that Hon. Mr. MacKay and a Mr. Curry were the men behind law reform, but he thought that by the time they got through with