

ed himself to the necessities for civil service reform, particularly in the administration of the license laws. In Opposition, he reminded the House, the leader of the Government had declared for the removal of the administration of the license laws from politics, and alluded to the fact that during the last campaign the Premier had appeared on the political platform with a license commissioner in Lindsay, and that two other commissioners had been appointed as enumerators, a political post.

The leader concluded, amid the applause of his followers, with a cheerful optimism for the future. The Liberal party in Ontario, he said, was still strong, vigorous and confident.

#### The Premier's Reply.

Premier Whitney in closing the debate extended a warm welcome to the new comers to the Legislature, and particularly handed a bouquet to the mover and seconder of the address, and congratulated Mr. McCormack on a speech which revealed "honesty at heart and sincerity of purpose." At the same time he would point out that the model schools were intended not merely to advance public school scholars, but to supply members of the teaching profession. In regard to the point raised by Mr. Studholme, he reminded the House that in his opening campaign speech at Hamilton he had said that even-handed justice with regard to the establishment of educational institutions would be meted out to the city of the mountain, no matter what the political color of the representatives of that city. With regard to the Sault guarantee, the Government would again oppose any similar attempt to outrage constitutional practice, and it was only by their watchfulness that the Province had escaped from the responsibilities and dishonest burdens placed upon them. On the University question apparently there was a difference of opinion between the leader of the Opposition and his followers from West Wellington. There were 3,700 students at the university. That number was only exceeded by one other similar institution in the world, and "neither this nor any other Government will dare to throttle or make hard the way of an institution 60 per cent. of the students of which are sons of farmers."

#### No More Railway Taxation.

As to railway taxation, they might end a brass band through the Province and never raise any talk about the question. Just because railways were railways the member for West Wellington apparently held they were attackable and not entitled to fair play. Passing on to licensing questions, he expressed his astonishment at the manner in which Mr. McEwing had spoken. Proceeding, the Premier said:—"Unless he gives to the Provincial Secretary particulars of the acts he complains of, together with the names of the persons who committed them and the names of the witnesses who will prove the commission of the acts, he will become a discredited public man." Reverting to the university question, he claimed that the Government had lifted it from the slough of despond. In regard to the control, that had been deliberately handed over to a body of gentlemen who did not meet in secret, but simply refused to admit reporters and entrusted the handing out of information to the press to Mr. J. A. Macdonald, editor of The Globe. The intention of the Government in regard to law reform had been specifically set forth in the resolution passed last year.

#### The Location of Tavistock.

Passing on to the Tavistock controversy, the Premier claimed that the Government had acted on the expression of the opinion of the County Councils of Perth and Oxford. "The Government was not going to force a community on a county that did not want it, not even to make safe the seat of a sly politician," commented Sir James. The Government, he contended, had separated the hotelkeeper from political influence, but, nevertheless, a license inspector had the right to go on a political platform and vote as he chose. Mr. MacKay in his capacity of Commissioner of Lands, he held, had been negligent in not informing himself as to the whole merit of the O'Brien case, while in regard to the Canadian Northern guarantee he should have known that when the word "mortgage" was used the word "agreement" was intended. The present Government was bound to

carry out the agreement, although the old Government had failed to make any specific arrangement as to terminals. Therefore it had become incumbent on his Administration to see that the Province was sufficiently secured. Good legislation and administration alone was responsible for the result of the general election. In addition they had in four years doubled the Provincial revenue, largely increased the aid to education, and still had a succession of surpluses. "Is it surprising that the people of the Province stood by the roadside and looked on wonderingly as the bureau of political quackery went by, directed by the off-colored theology of The Globe, which, rumor says, is now being directed against the hon. gentleman opposite?"

The resolution was then adopted.