

larger representation in the Legislature. "As to the future of the Liberal party," Mr. McDougal went on, "we have no fears. We know that the Liberals generally will rally round the little band of Liberal representatives in the Legislature. We are loyal to our able leader"—Opposition applause—"and we propose to do our duty to the great party we represent as an Opposition.

"On behalf of our party," concluded Mr. McDougal amid Liberal applause, "I congratulate our leader upon his magnificent fight. He travelled the length and breadth of the Province and fought the fight practically alone. It is not his lot now to wear the laurel wreath of victory, but the exchange will be made four years hence, and it will be the reward of pluck, perseverance and valor." (Opposition applause.)

Defends the Government.

Mr. T. H. Lennox (North York) opened amid Government plaudits by alluding to Mr. McDougal's statement that the Liberal leader went out to fight the campaign practically alone. "He might have added," observed Mr. Lennox, "that he returned from the fight practically alone." (Government applause.) Mr. Lennox described the Government record as "a record of progress, honor and business methods." Under it it was easy to account for the increased expenditure in grants to the public schools, the aid to agriculture, the development of the Province and the administration of its affairs. Mr. Lennox repudiated the statement that the Government was successful because it was following in the steps of its predecessors. "That's just what it's not doing," he declared, amid Government applause. There were changes in the Crown Lands, Provincial Secretary's and Education Departments.

Mr. Lennox concluded by alleging that, although the expenditure had been increased, no outlays had been challenged by the Opposition.

A Multiplicity of Servants.

Mr. Duncan C. Ross (North Middlesex), who followed, opened by twitting the Provincial Treasurer on his visit to the North riding of Middlesex prior to the election and the failure of his efforts to hold the riding, even after the redistribution efforts made to create it a safe Conservative seat. One cause of the increased expenditure which lent itself to criticism, Mr. Ross pointed out, was the multiplicity of civil servants that the Government had gathered around it. The increase in the amount of business done for the Province had not warranted the doubling of the number of messengers in the House, and the crowding in of other appointments not needed.

Continuing at the evening sitting, Mr. Ross dealt in detail with the Florence Mining Company's claim. As to its merits he offered no opinion, but it was a dangerous and improper practice for the Government to usurp the right of fair trial of the merits of any case. Passing on to the question of railway taxation, Mr. Ross advocated an increase. To his mind the corporations did not yet pay their fair share of taxation. In reference to university affairs he held, with his leader, that its financial conduct should be passed upon by the people's representatives.

Dr. Preston (Lanark)—The people passed upon it.

"Ah, the election again," responded Mr. Ross. "The Conservatives should remember they are now upon the crest of the wave, aye, upon its very summit. But the higher the crest the greater the fall when the wave breaks. And I say in all seriousness that they cannot continue to increase the annual expenditure by \$3,289,000 in four years and hold the confidence of the people in the face of what they promised.

"It has become a habit," concluded Mr. Ross, "to commiserate this 'little band,' as they call it. They need not bother about the little band. The Liberal heart still beats strong, and we have no fears for the future." (Opposition applause.)

Mr. McKeown's Views.

Mr. C. R. McKeown (Dufferin) followed on behalf of the Government. He alleged the Opposition criticism to be "all generalities." The expenditure on education had increased threefold, yet not one item, he claimed, had been challenged, because, he said, the money had been spent in raising the standards. Mr. McKeown declared that the Conservative party had not changed its position in relation to the "Soo" loan guarantee. Accepting conditions as he found them, the Provincial Treasurer had handled the negotiations

with great skill. As to the three-fifths clause, the speaker said that even the temperance people themselves were not of one mind. In Orangeville the Methodist minister, a Conservative, was opposing the clause, while the Presbyterian minister, a Liberal, declared it to be a good thing in the cause of temperance. Mr. McKeown praised the Government for its enforcement of the license laws.

"It was not lack of expenditure that prevented them carrying even more ridings," said Mr. James McEwing (West Wellington), referring to the boasted Government successes at the general election. In his own riding he had heard a prominent Conservative declare that "if they had had \$500 more they could have beaten McEwing." "This Government," remarked the member, amid Opposition applause, "seems to have a strong faith in special expenditures."

Mr. McEwing declared that while there had been no justification for much of the expenditure, one branch of Government work had been overlooked in the lavish outlay, that of agriculture. The member for Wellington advocated the appointment of a commission on weeds. Some general scheme to combat the development and spread of noxious weeds was necessary to the protection of rural Ontario. It was from a financial standpoint Mr. McEwing claimed, much more important to the farmers than the proposed forestry schemes.

Mr. W. S. Brewster (South Brant) moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Centre Huron) will follow Mr. Brewster on the Opposition side to-day. It is not expected that the debate will be terminated before next week.

Hon. A. J. Matheson introduced a Government measure "to regulate means of egress from public buildings." It is an amalgamation of two bills passed last session dealing principally with moving picture theatres. As local conditions vary greatly in these theatres, the bill vests the regulation of the same in the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

No Private Bills Extension.

In response to a question from Sir James Whitney, Mr. W. H. Hoyle (North Ontario), Chairman of the Committee on Standing Orders, stated that the decision had been reached not to extend the time for introducing private bills beyond the present week.

Hydro-electric Commission.

Mr. Elliott (West Middlesex) will ask for an order of the House for a return showing what exactly has been done by the Hydro-electric Commission in connection with the Niagara power transmission line. Mr. Elliott desires exact information as to the specifications upon which tenders were called for, and for copies of the tenders themselves, as well as the contracts which have been concluded, and the order in Council validating these contracts.