

ment" with reference to it. Contrasting with that the position taken by the Liberal side of the House last year, he quoted from the record the motion he introduced during last session, which read:

"That in the opinion of this House the Province and municipalities should unite in (a) the establishment of technical schools in the towns and cities in Ontario to supplement the practical training of the workshop in an arrangement as to the basis of support for such schools as between the Province, the municipalities, and the established manufacturers; (b) the establishment in large industrial centres of Technical High Schools, and (c) that the powers of the municipalities should be enlarged so as to enable them to aid in the support of such schools."

#### Suggests Provincial Commission.

Mr. MacKay urged strongly that the Province should appoint a commission to ascertain the facts and gather information as to the need and the possibilities of technical and industrial training within the Province, supplementing and making more complete, so far as Ontario is concerned, the work of the Dominion Government's Commission. He pleaded the rights of the children in the rural schools, claiming that they should be looked after equally with those in the town public schools, the normal and high schools and the university.

#### Hydro-electric Policy. . . .

"The inequitable and unfair way" in which the Government had dealt with the Hydro-electric situation, in the matter of the securing of right of way by the Commission, came in for some keen criticism on the part of the Liberal leader. He instanced the fact that Bracebridge sold its debentures without any aid from the Government, obtaining ninety-eight and one-half per cent. for them, losing one and one-half cents on every dollar, and paying four and one-half per cent. interest. It amounted to Bracebridge endorsing the paper of Welland, while Welland would not endorse the paper of Bracebridge.

On the question of reforestation, one of the largest that the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines had to deal with, Mr. MacKay expressed the opinion that the Government was sufficiently long in power to adopt a more practical and comprehensive scheme than it has presented.

He also suggested to the Government the necessity of a more active public propaganda in favor of peopling the hinterland of Ontario.

#### Stands For Majority Rule.

He was rather amused at the reference to local option made by the member for South Norfolk (Mr. A. C. Pratt), in rejoicing over the adoption of local option by 242 municipalities, closing 596 hotel bars and cutting off sixteen shop licenses. If it was so good to do that, he argued, why would it not be so much better a thing to have majority vote and cut off 700 bars? He stood firmly on the principle of one man one vote, and every vote of equal value. The Liberals had divided the House successively for five sessions on this question, and would divide it as often again as necessary until the three-fifths clause was repealed and the local option by-laws placed on the same footing as other matters dealt with by the municipalities.

#### Sinned Against Advice.

Mr. MacKay vigorously scored the Government for its "floundering and blundering" in dealing with the rural school question. In its mismanagement it had sinned, he said, against advice, having been warned repeatedly that the closing of the model schools would result in withdrawing the supply of qualified teachers. He laid particular emphasis on the fact that in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, while ten years ago there were, of the seventy teachers, two holding first-class certificates, twenty-two with second, and forty-six with provisional thirds, and none with permits, there are now, with the same number of teachers, two with first-class certificates, as before, twenty-seven with seconds, twenty-two with thirds, and nineteen with mere temporary permits. In his own riding seventeen schools were vacant last January, and the trustees were seeking anyone who could or would teach, and it was the same way this year.

There was no excuse for this deplorable state of affairs.

#### Scoundrels Going Unpunished.

Mr. MacKay concluded his vigorous arraignment of the Government by reference to the lax administration of justice, declaring that "there never was a time in the Province of Ontario when the people of the Province had as little faith in the activity of the Attorney-General's Department." "At no period since Confederation," said he, "will you find such a number of scoundrels going unwhipped of justice as during the past five years," instancing the Orangeville investigation, the Barton affair, and the Kinrade affair among others.

#### The Premier's Reply.

Sir James Whitney, in reply to the Opposition leader's speech, particularly to that part in which Mr. MacKay "poured out the vials of his wrath" upon the Government for letting guilty men escape punishment, retorted with the charge that there had been a "monstrous and awful condition of affairs with regard to the want of public justice" in respect of "scoundrels" who, he alleged, had been "under the protection of the Government" of which the honorable gentleman was a member.

#### A Lively Encounter.

The Premier referred to "what took place in a polling-place in North Grey," as to which, he said, there were declarations stating that ballots had been tampered with.

Mr. MacKay asked whether the Premier was aware of the fact that

the gentlemen in question had said they never made those declarations.

Sir James—I did not say the declarations were sworn to. If they were forgeries there was a way to punish them, and the honorable gentlemen were in power. Why didn't they punish them? They were to the benefit of the honorable gentlemen.

Mr. MacKay—My honorable friend is talking in the direct teeth of the final judgment in that case by Mr. Justice McLennan.

Sir James—I repeat it: those ballots were found all together, and the result inured to the benefit of the honorable gentlemen.

Mr. MacKay—That statement is a direct contradiction of the finding of the court.

Sir James—What about the report of Mr. Aemilius Irving? Who buried it?

Mr. MacKay—Was it ever asked for?

Sir James—Yes, more than once.

Mr. MacKay—What was the explanation?

Sir James—There wasn't any explanation.

#### Educational Policy Defended.

Continuing his speech, the Premier sought to defend the action of the Government in closing the model schools, saying that anyway they were not all closed at once, and averring that the scarcity of teachers was not any greater than it had been for several years. The normal schools were full. Four new ones had been created. And to-day people were waiting who could not get admission to them. "Hear, hear," exclaimed Mr. MacKay.