

abandoned its proposal? Is it going to allow Mr Beck to continue? Sir James in his appeal to the people stated that this was necessary, that it was desirable for several reasons. Perhaps he will inform the House what these several reasons were, and then perhaps he will take the House into his confidence and give the reasons why this change was abandoned. I was wondering whether in that caution, apparently inspired, that the member for South Grey gave, whether there was an indication as to why the Prime Minister opposed the change. Was the Commission getting out of hand? Had Mr. Beck taken the bit in his teeth, and the Prime Minister, wishing to apply the curb, by the indirect method, asked him to come in, where as a member of the Council he could be kept in check?

#### Protect the Municipalities.

"I trust that a definite announcement will be made that the Government has abandoned this proposal. The interests of the municipalities demand it, and their rights should not be endangered. We can congratulate the municipalities that this proposal has passed off the scene.

"The whole blunder is characteristic of the policy of this Government that where they jump they jump without due consideration, without proper care for the public interest.

Referring to the absence of any mention of the Federal subsidy to the T. & N. O., Mr. Rowell wondered whether it was omitted in order not to embarrass the friends of the Government at Ottawa.

The Government's pre-election spread on the bilingual question was shown up in a way that visibly worried the men in the Treasury Benches.

"The Prime Minister declared that there was no such thing as a bilingual school," remarked Mr. Rowell, and forthwith began to read from the public accounts a few extracts such as: T. C. Rochon, Inspector of bilingual schools, salary \$1,700; V. H. Gaborry, Inspector of bilingual schools, salary, \$1,700; A. Belanger, Inspector of bilingual schools, salary \$1,700.

#### Are There Bilingual Schools?

"Here," commented Mr. Rowell, amid Liberal applause, "is the Government paying three men as inspectors of bilingual schools and yet there are no bilingual schools! Or will the Prime Minister, now that elections are safely over and he has got free from that portion of his supporters who were pressing him so hard, admit that there are bilingual schools?"

Sir James looked disturbed. Then came the Attorney General's turn. The Liberal leader lead his much-quoted statement that if bilingual schools existed it was against the law.

#### What has Foy Been Doing?

"I can only say this," said Mr. Rowell; "that if bilingual schools cannot exist according to law, what has the Attorney General, head of the Department of Justice, been doing for years, when they exist and the public accounts show payments made in connection with them?"

This angered Hon. Mr. Foy, and he rose with a challenge. "What would you have done?" he asked.

"Enforced the law," replied Mr. Rowell.

"But how?" "By seeing that the school law was carried out." This was too much for the Attorney-General. "No, no," he protested, sitting down, amid laughter.

#### Hon. Dr. Reaume's Turn.

Dr. Reaume's uncomfortable spell flowed. Mr. Rowell declared that the Prime Minister, anxious to stem the tide of protest Hon. Mr. Foy's remarks had caused, appointed the Minister of Public Works to give an interview repudiating Mr. Foy's views as to the position of the Government.

Sir James rose to object to this statement.

"Well, then, the Government appointed him to give it," corrected Mr. Rowell.

"Who is the Government?" inquired Hon. A. G. MacKay sotto voce.

The Liberal leader read the tail-end of Hon. Dr. Reaume's statement, in which he said that the people who were protesting against bilingual schools knew nothing about them.

#### A Compliment for Mr. Foy.

"I am sure all will appreciate the

nice compliment the Minister of Public Works paid the Attorney-General.

"It is essential in constitutional practice under British institutions that the Cabinet should be united," continued Mr. Rowell. "I venture to say that the people of this Province have never witnessed in any period of our history the public scandal of three Cabinet Ministers coming to the people regarding a matter for which they were responsible and each making a different speech as to the policy of the Government."

The Liberal leader then took up the boundary question, and asked if the absence of any reference to it in the speech from the Throne was due to a desire to avoid embarrassing the Ottawa Administration. He reaffirmed the Liberal position on this issue, declaring that if the Government insisted upon Ontario's full rights to a port on James Bay the Opposition would give its whole support.

#### No Tax Reform.

Mr. Rowell marvelled at the lack of reference to tax reform in the speech, and read the declarations of the two Ottawa supporters of the Administration who pledged themselves to support any bill that aimed to tax incomes and business assessment, etc., at a lower rate than land.

He complimented the Ministers upon their good sense in following out the policy of their predecessors in regard to the T. & N. O., but severely scored Sir James for having used the announcement of the construction of the Elk Lake extension as a bribe.

#### A Week Before Election Day.

The people of Elk Lake repeatedly requested the Government and the commission to give them that extension," he said. "They got no satisfaction. Then when the contest was going sore with the Government candidate in Temiskaming, notwithstanding all the weight and influence of the Government, a week before the election came the announcement that this Elk Lake branch would be built.

"The Conservative agents took telegrams sent to this effect and showed them to the people, saying: 'Unless you elect a supporter of the Government the line will not be built or will be greatly delayed.'"

This Mr. Rowell characterized as one of the greatest scandals the people had witnessed in a long time—many a year.

#### The "Blind Pig" Industry.

Taking up the flourishing condition of the "blind pig" industry, Mr. Rowell explained the system under which the Government escapes blame for selling liquor on its trains in the north country by handing that privilege over to the Grand Trunk dining cars and sharing in the profits.

In the closing portions of his address he criticized the Government for its neglect of the north country. He said the Opposition would withhold judgment until the Government announced what the new policy would be, but he warned the Prime Minister that if that policy was not a vigorous, progressive one the Opposition would keep up its fight.

#### Stop Rural Decline.

"The present pressing and urgent need of this Province," declared Mr. Rowell, "is that measures should be adopted which would arrest the decline of our rural population; bring in new settlers to repeople the partially-depopulated areas, and open up and settle the great, fertile agricultural areas of northern Ontario with a thrifty and progressive people.

"Does the Government realize that to-day one of the perils of Canada is a cleavage between east and west, in interest and in sympathy? Ontario should really be the backbone of our Confederation, and if the great clay belt were peopled with citizens like those who now fill up old Ontario, we would have forged the link which would bind east to west, and would have made this Canada of ours one and inseparable now and forever.

"The Government suggests that it has a new policy, but it has not seen fit to disclose it. I appeal to the Prime Minister before this debate closes to tell us what this policy is. If we are to judge of the future by the past, we will find this policy, when disclosed, is utterly inadequate to meet the situation."

By reason of the unprogressive attitude of the Government the depopulation of rural Ontario has not been stayed. Northern Ontario is remaining unsettled our timber resources