

pare for the work.

"At present," he declared, "the public have no idea where a Model school is to be established. What about preparation for the Model schools? Suppose there are three or four counties where there are no Model schools. When are they to know whether there is to be a Model school or not? You cannot fill a Model school unless the people have had sufficient notice that there is going to be one."

Hon. Dr. Pyne repeated that an announcement would be made shortly.

A Settled Policy Needed.

"But the academic year is two-thirds over," persisted the member for North Grey. "There ought to be some settled policy. There ought to be a definite statement at the beginning of the academic year as to where these schools will be." He reminded the Government that he had warned them years ago that if the Model schools were abolished the situation would be what it now is. "I asked the Government not to wipe out all the schools at one stroke," he continued. "I asked them to leave at least one school in each county until the transition stage was over, and qualified teachers were available for every school in the Province."

The discussion wandered far afield, with Hon. Mr. MacKay coming back to the point repeatedly in an endeavor to get the Minister to see the force of his argument.

People Endorsed Policy.

Sir James Whitney came to Dr. Pyne's relief by declaring that the people of Ontario had three times endorsed by immense majorities the Government's educational policy. Mr. A. H. Musgrove of North Huron was sure that the abolition of Model schools and the substitution of Normal schools had been a wise move, and was promptly taken to task by Mr. W. McDonald, Liberal member for Centre Bruce, who declared that since the county of Bruce had no Model school the School Trustees were compelled to take teachers right from the High School at Chesley. He appealed to the Minister to place a Model school in Bruce or in Grey where it would be convenient to Bruce county.

He contrasted the lack of educational facilities in his county with the position of North Bay, which had a big Normal school with only twenty-seven pupils.

"Of all the God-forsaken places to put a Normal school—at North Bay!" he exclaimed.

The remark created an uproar. "Were you ever there?" shouted Mr. Shillington.

"No, I never was, and don't want to be," was Mr. McDonald's retort.

The Government Responsible.

Mr. N. W. Rowell reviewed the situation throughout the Province, insisting that it was the duty of the Government to take steps to counteract the demand from the west that was leaving Ontario schools in the hands of unqualified teachers. Hon. Mr. MacKay came back with another broadside that drew from Sir James a few sarcastic remarks, among them that the member for North Grey was "hopelessly lost in the mazes of his fad about Model schools."

Mr. H. Munro of Glengarry got down to facts. He declared that the question of Model schools had been one of the leading ones in the campaign that resulted in his election. "When Glengarry had a Model school we had teachers enough," he said. "To-day more than one-half of the schools are in the hands of unqualified teachers, simply because they will not go all the way to Ottawa to attend a Model school." Mr. R. J. McCormick of East Lambton and Dr. McQueen of North Wentworth presented similar arguments for the restoration of Model schools, while Mr. J. C. Milligan followed for the Government.

Hon. Mr. MacKay disturbed the Minister of Education again. Referring to the Minister's inability to state when and where the Model schools would be established, he characterized it as a "confession of absolute incompetence."

Lack of Qualified Teachers.

Mr. McGarry said when the

Government took office there was a lack of qualified teachers, and the policy that was now being carried out had been inaugurated by the present leader of the House. As 95 per cent. of the children of the Province receive their education in the public and separate schools, those schools should have the best possible facilities for training their children.

Mr. Gamey found fault with the Opposition for claiming on the one hand that there should be more schools in northern Ontario, and criticizing the Government for establishing a school at North Bay. He directed considerable of his remarks to Mr. McDonald, resenting the reference to North Bay as a "God-forsaken place." He declared there were more people within one hundred and fifty miles of North Bay than there were in the combined counties of Grey, Huron and Bruce. Northern Ontario required another Normal school. "They are back in the days before 1904. There is no God-forsaken town in northern Ontario today," he said.

Progressive North Bay.

Mr. Rowell made it clear that no slight had been intended for North Bay. He had visited there and found it a progressive place.

"It was all right then, but God-forsaken after the 11th December," interposed Mr. Hearst.

"It is a good town under all circumstances," replied Mr. Rowell. It had been helped in its development by the construction of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, which was part of the Liberal policy, and was largely responsible for the conditions now prevailing in New Ontario.

"The member for Manitoulin knows, if he will give the House his honest opinion, how dissatisfied he has been with the apathy of the Government," declared Mr. Rowell, which elicited no reply from Mr. Gamey.

While the position of the Government on the educational question might be all right in theory, schools in many places were face to face with the question of having no teachers at all or taking teachers without any professional training whatever. The incompetency and incapacity of the Government were obvious. The Government should have taken the House into their confidence and should have formulated a policy that would have met the situation. What the Government were doing and what the Government ought to do was widely different.

Many Undermanned Schools.

Mr. Pratt thought there were as many undermanned schools when Model schools were maintained as at the present time. The fact was Ontario was growing so fast that it was impossible to keep up with the supply of teachers.

Money was well spent in training teachers, commented Mr. J. C. Elliott, but if the Model schools were the curse that the Government made them out to be, why not abolish them altogether?

Mr. Marshall suggested that the restriction upon trustees being unable to employ Model school graduates be removed, and Mr. Sam Clark thought the Province was sufficiently wealthy to make a large increase to the grant for education.

The following gentlemen were invited to dine with the Hon. the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature