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After warning the House that the Government was seeking to centralize too much authority in itself, he pointed out that there was dissatisfaction on all sides with the Department of Education. He himself was a member of the Advisory Council, but that body had not been called together once during the past year. The system lacked elasticity, which should be allowed so that the personality of the teacher might be wrought for the benefit of the pupil.

### **Churches Demanded Reform.**

Major Tolmie drew blood when he defended the stand taken by the ministers of the Gospel in the last general election. The cry for the abolition of the bar had not started with the leader of the Opposition. The churches had asked for it, and when a man came along and put it on his ballot, could the ministers do anything less than support it? "Our ministers were not playing politics, as has been suggested," he declared. "The mantle of those great prophets of the Old Testament would not have rested upon these men to-day if they had not boldly taken the stand they did during the last election."

### **Progress in Agriculture.**

Mr. R. H. McElroy (Carleton) contended that the condition of agriculture in the Province had progressed a great deal under the present Administration, and pointed to the growth of branch banks in rural districts and the extent of farmers' deposits to show that the farmers to-day were in a fairly prosperous condition.

Mr. George S. Henry (East York) said the Liberals were frequently talking about depopulation of the Province. "What are the facts?" asked the speaker. "We are sending the best of our sons and daughters to the west to lay the framework for civilization in those Provinces. I take it when history is written it will be shown that the exodus from Ontario has had a marked influence on all those western Provinces."

Mr. Nelson Parliament (Prince Edward) cordially approved of the proposal of the Provincial Treasurer to impose a war tax, but hoped it would be understood by the people of Ontario that grants of food and money were not given to Britain and her allies as a matter of charity, but out of a sense of duty cheerfully discharged.

Mr. W. D. McPherson (Northwest Toronto) discussed the Budget from the standpoint of the progress that had been achieved in safeguarding public health. In the last ten years the rate of fatalities from tuberculosis in the Province had dropped from 148 per 100,000 to 85 per 100,000.