

CLAIMS SCHOOL SYSTEM FAULTY

Indictment of Department of Education Affairs by Lin- coln Liberal

NEEDS COMPLETE CHANGE

"The education system of Ontario without doubt is all wrong. We cannot change it by changing the regulations; we cannot change it by changing the officials. The whole system must be changed. It is too narrow and autocratic. We want something higher and greater for this Province. The reasonable way to do is to call in a committee of experts, as they have done in the old country."

This was the stinging indictment of the Ontario Department of Education, heard yesterday in the Legislature in the course of a remarkable speech by Mr. Thomas Marshall, Liberal member for Lincoln, who has made a thorough study of the question. It was the feature of the resumed debate on the Budget, which dragged on into the night, and will be wound up by the two leaders, Premier Hearst and Mr. Proudfoot, next Tuesday or Wednesday. Mr. Marshall dealt at length with the management of the Education Department, and showed how expenses had increased without any corresponding benefits in the results achieved. He accused those at the head of the department of autocracy, and offered many important suggestions with a view to improvement in the department and its operation. Mr. Marshall made it clear that in discussing the matter he did not wish to indulge in captious criticism or partisan attacks, and his suggestions were made in a most friendly and sympathetic spirit.

Policy in New Ontario.

Another feature of the debate was the charge of Mr. Zotique Mageau, Liberal member for Sturgeon Falls, to the effect that the Government is still squandering money in New Ontario.

Mr. Mageau, asked for the appointment of an inspector of cheese and butter factories in Northern Ontario, and drew from Sir William Hearst, Minister of Agriculture, the promise that a permanent inspector would be appointed this year. Mr. Mageau then dealt with the question of seed grain for settlers in the northland, and protested that there was "too much politics" in the present system of handling the business. He also called the attention of the Minister of Public Works to the Government's method of marketing fish declaring that fish caught in Lake Nipissing could not be bought as cheaply in the North, where it was caught, as it could be bought in Toronto. He added that he had heard of shipments of fish caught three miles from Sturgeon Falls being shipped to Toronto and then reshipped to Sturgeon Falls for sale in retail shops there. The Minister interrupted to say that in future towns near the source of supply would get preferential treatment.

Government House Upkeep.

Mr. Mageau protested against the expense of keeping up Government House. One item for last year, he said, was \$7,000 for water, fuel and light; another item was \$232 for uniforms for the messengers and gardeners. "In Sturgeon Falls we put overalls over them," said Mr. Mageau, amid laughter. He calculated that the upkeep of Government House last year, plus six per cent. on the cost of building "this castle," was \$118,000. He thought "the Government should find another fool to purchase that place."