

There are stronger reasons in the case of the Provincial officials than in those cases which I have mentioned ; for an elector's choice in voting for a member of the Legislature depends, not merely or principally on what he may know of the integrity and business ability of the respective candidates, but also, and largely, on the political and other parties to which they respectively belong, and the professed principles and history of each party. The merits or demerits of parties are the daily or weekly subject of discussion in the newspapers throughout the Province. The subject is interesting to all who read the public journals, whether they are electors or not, and is as interesting in other constituencies as in the elector's own constituency. Wherever he goes these matters are talked about, and they are of continued interest and of continued importance from one election to another. The discussion of them is a political education as to the voting for members of the Legislature. But the electors have no such advantages in judging as to the comparative personal qualifications of candidates for such an office as County Attorney or Local Master, or any of the other offices now under discussion. The two cases will, therefore, on consideration, be seen to be entirely different.

#### WOULD IT BE A BENEFICIAL CHANGE ?

2. When any government or legislative change is proposed or considered, the first and most important question to be weighed is whether the change is likely to be a beneficial change. In the present matter it has not been suggested hitherto, so far as I have seen, that the work of the officers aimed at would be better done in case of the offices being filled by county election or appointment. We have the experience of our neighbors across the line as to the election of such officers, and there is no pretence that they have elected better men or more efficient officers than as a rule our officers are, by whatever party appointed. In fact, the very contrary is the case ; our officers are as a rule superior to theirs. (Applause.)

#### LIBERAL PRINCIPLES.

3. Again, we cannot go for the change to local appointment or election from a notion that the proposed method follows necessarily or logically from Liberal principles in other matters. On the contrary, I have failed to find that municipal election or appointment of such officers is in use under any Liberal or Democratic Government in the world except the United States, or that it has been demanded by any large party of Liberals anywhere else. I refer to these facts to show that a man may be a good Liberal here without favoring local appointment or election to the offices in question. That method prevails, as I have said, in the United States, but I hope that, however kind our feelings are towards that country, none of us have such a love for whatever exists there that the mere existence of the proposed system there is sufficient to make us determine to have it here. Let us have in Ontario the best modes, and the best laws, whether they correspond with those of our neighbors or not. Several of our institutions, and many of our laws, are in advance of theirs, and as regards these we should be retrograding, and not advancing, were we to adopt theirs in place of our own.

Do not let us forget that the Provincial Government represents the people—the people of the whole Province—quite as much as the electors or municipal councillors of a county represent that county. (Applause.) Under responsible government, the Government consists, in effect, of a committee of the Legislative Assembly chosen by the people, and the Government must have the support and confidence of a majority of that representative body. Thus, what is done by a Govern-