

ABSURDITIES OF CONSERVATIVE RECORD

It is interesting to note the position taken by the Conservative party while in opposition and to compare the same with their present record. The following points may be noted:—

1. Minister of Agriculture.—In 1888, on the third reading of the bill to create a separate Department of Agriculture under a responsible Minister, it was moved in amendment by the then Conservative Leader to the effect that the expenses of a new Member of the Executive Council and of the Department were unnecessary and that these sections of the Bill should be struck out (see Journals of the House, 1888, p. 136).
2. 1891—Drainage Referee.—The Conservatives opposed the appointment of a Drainage Referee (see Journals of the House, p. 173). And in the same year voted to strike out \$3,500 appropriated to cover the cost under the Drainage Trials Act (see Journals of the House, p. 254). The present Government when it came into power not only continued the system but appointed a second Drainage Referee.
3. 1893—Surveying and Exploring.—The Policy of doing surveying and exploratory work in New Ontario in order to ascertain the resources of this great north land was opposed in 1893 by the Conservatives, and a motion was made to strike out the appropriation of \$35,000 for this purpose (see Journals of the House, 1893, p. 197).
4. 1893—Superintendent of Neglected Children.—The then Conservative leader opposed the appointment of that very important and useful officer, the Superintendent of Neglected Children, who with those associated with him all over the Province have done such excellent humane work. The House was divided upon this question, the present Premier voting against the appropriation and the appointment (see Journals of the House, 1893, p. 150).
5. 1894—Minister of Education.—The present Premier moved a resolution having for its object the abolition of the office of Minister of Education (see Journals of the House, p. 148). When he came into power he continued the position of Minister of Education and appointed a Superintendent of Education, who is not a member of the House but who is really directing all educational changes, with the result, for example, that in October,