

spite of a heavy snowstorm. The audience sat, with the closest attention, intact to the last, and frequently manifested their approval by loud cheers. The Premier's speech was marked by the introduction of considerable new material. In beginning he boldly challenged criticism of his position and record, and then spoke of the great necessity of building up Ontario, with special reference to the industries at Sault Ste. Marie, which the Government had been instrumental in restoring. Mr. Whitney's unprogressive record in the House was put under the searchlight, and then the Premier discussed frankly the two records in regard to corruption. He expressed his greatest sorrow for the acts of certain Liberals, but pointed out that he should not be responsible for the acts of every one of the 225,000 voting Liberals in Ontario, any more than Rev. Dr. Carman could for every Methodist who went to the theatre or played cards. "It is grossly, cruelly untrue and false that I have any guilty knowledge of these corrupt practices," Mr. Ross declared with all the energy and emphasis that he could command. The Conservative platform, as adopted at the conference, was scathingly criticized, and shown to be largely stolen, and of their temperance plank it was said: "It is as colorless as a white ray of light, and not so pure." The meeting was most satisfactory from a Liberal standpoint, and gives every promise that Mr. Madole will this time win and hold the honors of which he was unjustly deprived in 1902.

The Premier's Speech.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross was enthusiastically cheered when he stepped forward to reply to the address. His opening words were expressive of thanks to the little lady who had so gracefully presented him with a bouquet. Next he thanked the Chairman for the very flattering address which he had presented to him. "It does," said Mr. Ross amid cheers, "somewhat sweeten the—what shall I say?—the torture, or it allays the torture of public life a little now and again to have pleasant things said about you. References have been made to the many fierce attacks that have been made upon me. I do not worry much about that. It is part of the game. Every leader has to submit to it whether he likes it or not. Away back before my recollection, and as you call me a 'grand old man' I ought to go back a good while, it was the case with other leaders of the Liberal party; with Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, than whom there was no more honest or straightforward man in public life; with Edward Blake, one of the brightest stars in the Canadian firmament; with my predecessors, Sir Oliver Mowat, and Mr. Hardy, so that 'what can't be cured must be endured'—(laughter)—and that with the greatest equanimity."

A Cheering Prospect.

Mr. Ross expressed himself delighted with Mr. Madole, who would make a worthy member of the Legislative Assembly. He had known