

vague speculations and crude theories that are so abundantly set forth in times of political unrest. It does not want to see the efficient, and, upon the whole, eminently successful administration of an important department of the public service hampered or emasculated by the intrusion therewith of a feature subversive of effective public control, and utterly at variance with every principle of responsible government. It wants no divided responsibility, no loopholes for personal evasion, no back doors of escape.

If the present or any future Ministry proves itself to be incompetent or unfaithful, or ill-advised, the country wants to be able to convict it, and to visit it with the condign punishment it will in that case have earned. And, to that end, it wants to see perpetrated no legislative blunders such as would be involved in the creation of the proposed Advisory Board.

A NON-PARTISAN VIEW.

Outside this question it is a matter of no moment or concern to me which side wins in the approaching contest. I have ever held myself aloof from political partyism. I have no political ties or sympathies. Only once before now have I ever written or said one word connected with the politics of the Province. On that occasion, eight years ago, I felt constrained to oppose the return of the Ontario Government to power, on the ground of what I believed to be its mistaken educational policy with respect to Separate Schools. I have no desire now to save Mr. Ross from any blame he may have deserved. I simply want to state that if either of our two great political parties in the present or in any future contest goes to the polls really pledged to hamper the administration of Mr. Ross, or of any other competent Minister of Education, by loading him with an Advisory Board, or with any similar old-man-of-the-sea, to serve as a hobble wherewith to paralyze his efforts to advance, or, when occasion requires, as a scapegoat by means of which he may shirk the responsibility which is or should be justly and only his—then, in common with most other thoughtful, independent men, I should regard the access of that party to power as a public calamity.

JOHN H. SANGSTER.

PORT PERRY, Feb. 2, 1898.