

January, 1869, he wrote the Chief Superintendent, requesting him to continue in the discharge of his duties "until the Government matured a measure for placing the Education Department under the direct supervision of a member of the Executive Council."

*The Liberals in Power.*

On the accession of Edward Blake to office in 1871, Dr. Ryerson reiterated his desire to retire from office and renewed his recommendation that a Minister should be appointed in his place. It was not, however, until 1876 that the Government, acting upon his suggestion, amended the School Act and appointed the late Adam Crooks, then a member of the Government, to the position of Minister of Education, and at the same time brought the whole School System of the Province under the direct control of Parliament. In this position it has continued ever since.

The change from a Chief Superintendent to a Minister of Education was strongly opposed by the Conservative party for many years, on the alleged grounds that the Department would be used for political purposes, and, consequently, the educational interests of the country would be injuriously affected. This was the view held by Sir William Meredith as leader of the Opposition, and, apparently, the view maintained by Mr. Whitney, the present leader, a few years ago.

*Change of Front.*

Mr. Whitney has, however, apparently changed his mind with regard to the propriety of continuing a Minister of Education, as the following resolutions will show: On the 30th of April, 1891 (See page 163 of the Journals, 1891), it was moved by Mr. White, of Essex, and seconded by Mr. Clancy, "That the Bill respecting the Education Department be not now read the third time, but that it be resolved that it is expedient to place the Education Department under the control of a non-political head, and that the said Bill be referred back to the Committee of the whole House with instructions to amend the same by providing for the abolition of the office of Minister of Education after the dissolution of the present House."

Again, on the 25th day of April, 1894 (see page 148 of the Journals, 1894), it was moved by Mr. White (Essex), seconded by Mr. Hudson, "That it is essential to a non-partizan management