

Progress Since the General Election

At the General Election held on the 29th May, the record of the Liberal Party during the past thirty years was discussed and explained as fully as circumstances would permit. In these discussions it was shown that the administration of every department of the public service was progressive, efficient and economical. It was also shown that the Attorney-General's Department, under three successive Attorneys-General, had protected the interests of the Province against wanton attacks made by the Dominion Government, and were it not for that defence, what is now known as New Ontario would have passed from under the jurisdiction of the Province. Since the General Elections of May last three cases have been decided by the Privy Council in favor of the Province, which shows the continued vigilance of the Attorney-General's Department over the interests of the Province. The first of these referred to the

COMMON SCHOOL FUNDS

Under the Confederation Act, the Province of Ontario is required to pay into the Dominion Treasury, in trust for its own use and for the use of the Province of Quebec, all moneys collected from the sale of what are known as Common School Lands; that is, of lands set apart by the old Parliament of Canada as the basis of a fund for the maintenance of common schools in the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, then united under one Legislative Assembly. The Province of Quebec held that the unpaid balances on the sale of these lands should at once be placed in the hands of the Dominion Government. To this Ontario objected, on the ground that the Province was not liable for this money until after it was actually collected. The amount involved was \$485,000, of which two-fifths properly belonged to Quebec and the remainder to Ontario. If the contention of Quebec was held valid, the Treasury of Ontario would be required to advance this money. This view was resisted by the Government and carried before the Privy Council, the Attorney-General of the Province, the Hon. Mr. Gibson, being present at the argument. Judgment was given on 12th November in favor of the Province, thus rendering the payment of this money unnecessary until it is actually collected from the sale of the land. A less vigilant Government might have allowed the case to go by default. The second case is known as