

and gold in the tree tops of the whole Gillies Limit. We have as yet no definite information whatever from this Government, although frequently requested to give some as to what portions of the limit were mineralized and what portions were not. (Applause).

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

This leads me to another point. The Prime Minister and the Government started out with reference to the Gillies Limit, and they announced with a tremendous flourish of trumpets that we were to have Government ownership and Government operation of this property. Sir, spent considerable money of the Province in getting information as to what portions of these Limits were mineralized and what were not. This House, Sir, has a right to know what information they got and what it cost them to get it. (Applause). Is the information bottled up still, or was it given out to intending purchasers or only to some of them? (Applause). Some of the Limits were hurriedly advertised, tenders were received, and sales were made, and I repeat the question, What became of the information that this Province paid for and that this Province was supposed to get the benefit of? I am very sorry indeed, Sir, that the Government has apparently fallen from the high pedestal of public ownership on which it placed itself with reference to the Gillies Limit. (Applause).

SUMMARY.

Now, Sir, in brief summary, let me say that I think I have fairly shown that with every succeeding financial statement of the Honorable the Provincial Treasurer there occurs and persistently recurs the same fact, namely, that the current expenditures are far in excess of the current receipts. (Applause). This debate, Sir, has further shown and has proven beyond a possibility of doubt that owing to the misguided, ill-conceived, ill-judged and bungling change of regulations of the Education Department for the Province of Ontario, there is to-day a state of chaos and demoralization in our Public School system which has never existed heretofore in the Province. (Applause). I make the statement deliberately, Sir, and I make it with a full knowledge of the responsibility of the position which I occupy, and I make it, Sir, with the hope that it will go forth to the farthest and most remote corner of the Province of Ontario, and that statement is, Sir, that there never has been in the whole history of the Province of Ontario such unsatisfactory conditions as exist to-day, and these are the result of blundering, senseless Departmental acts in so far as Departmental acts can affect our schools. (Applause).

Further, Sir, as to educational matters, it has been clearly demonstrated during this debate that the Government, having gone to very considerable expense with reference to the readers, made the mistake of not publishing them at cost, but handed the printing over to a huge departmental store, to the injury and detriment of every retail dealer in the Province of Ontario. (Applause).

Again, Sir, with reference to the question of the farmers' rights along the Hydro-Electric line, it has been proven beyond all possibility of doubt that the methods pursued by the Hydro-Electric Commission and their agents were most unfortunate, most undignified and most unworthy of the great Province of Ontario. (Applause). And this discussion, Sir, but brings out this further fact, and after all it is the main fact, that so far as the voice of this House is concerned—and we have not heard a voice to the contrary on either side of the House—all are willing to say to the Government, and all have practically said to the Government and the Commission: "Go forward by fair means; go forward by fair Acts and fair laws; act as advance agents of all the municipalities that are within striking distance of electric power, and secure for them power as cheap as the circumstances and conditions will allow." (Applause).

The further fact, Sir, is clear that the Government unfortunately in carrying out this large scheme—a scheme, so far as its object is concerned, upon which both sides of this House are united—I repeat that unfortunately in the carrying out of this large scheme the Government have passed extremely arbitrary legislation and have been guilty of unnecessary and arbitrary acts not only with respect to the farmers along the line, but with respect to the ratepayers of the municipalities themselves, and the Government has shown a lack of confidence and trust in the ratepayers and of the respective municipalities interested in much of their legislation. (Applause).

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned at the outset, by tacit arrangement the debate on the Address was kept within a narrow compass, and therefore it is that in the moving of an amendment to the motion now before the Chair, I must