

New Government House

**AN ADMIRABLE EXCHANGE FOR THE OLD AND
DILAPIDATED GOVERNMENT HOUSE WITH
LITTLE, IF ANY, COST TO THE
PROVINCE.**

In securing for Ontario a new Government House the Whitney Government has used only the money derived from the sale of the old Government House. This money could, under the law as it existed, be used only for Government House purposes. Originally the property belonged to the Dominion of Canada, but was transferred to the province on the undertaking that the property, or the proceeds of any sale of it, would be utilized for a Government House.

The action of the Government in this matter illustrates in a very marked way the difference between the old method of dealing with public affairs and the present method. Two large blocks of land near the railway district of Toronto were recently sold for railway purposes. One block of land, containing nearly Ten acres, was sold by the Ross Government, and another block of land, closely adjoining, containing Six acres and a fraction, was sold by the Whitney Government.

The land sold by the Ross Government had been used for Parliament Buildings, and was sold by it to the Grand Trunk Railway for \$180,000, or about \$18,000 an acre. The land sold by the Whitney Government had been used for Government House and realized \$800,000, or about \$130,000 per acre.

As above pointed out, the proceeds of this advantageous sale of Government House had been set aside by law for Government House purposes. Accordingly, a new site was obtained and a building erected which will in every way be a credit to the province. The chief objection the Opposition has to it is that it is too good for Ontario, but the better the building is the better is the bargain Ontario has secured. So far the province has spent \$608,000 on the site, laying out the grounds and erecting the building, which is nearly completed. There remains on hand a balance of about \$200,000 to pay for the completion of the undertaking, so that the land given to the province for Government House purposes and sold so advantageously by the Whitney Government will also provide a new and modern Government House for the province.

As the old building had stood for nearly half a century, a considerable expenditure was necessary every year to keep it in repair. This expenditure averaged from Ten to Fifteen Thousand Dollars a year, and will not be necessary for years to come. Hence the Government has not only secured a new and better Government House in exchange for the old property, but has relieved the province of a considerable annual charge for repairs.

It should be remembered that the Government House is more than the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is a building in which the people of Ontario offer accommodation at the Capital for the Governor-General, his family and staff from time to time. Here also are entertained, sometimes at the request of the Imperial Government, the representatives of foreign nations, as well as distinguished men from different parts of the British Empire. The Government House is also used on behalf of the people of Ontario to show respect to great public bodies promoting philanthropic, religious and industrial enterprises who may visit the capital of the Province. Considering that the structure now approaching completion is intended to meet the requirements of the province for perhaps a long period, it is evident that those who think the Government House is too good for Ontario fail to appreciate the future of this province and its importance as a part of the Empire.