THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN.

A REFORM OVATION.

HAMILTON'S GRAND RECEPTION OF THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO.

A SPLENDID TRIBUTE TO FAIR, HONEST AND LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

A MOST ENTHUSIASTIC AND SATISFACTORY MEETING.

Magnificent Speeches by Hon. Oliver Mowat, Hon. Arthur S. Hardy and H. MacMahon, Esq., Q.C.

THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE RECEIVES A ROUSING ENDORSATION—HIS ELECTION ON THE 5TH OF JUNE ASSURED.

The Proceedings at the Palace.

On Friday evening the members of the Young Men's Liberal Association assembled at their Rooms on King street west, and, headed by the splendid Band of the 13th Battalion, proceeded to the Royal Hotel to meet the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier of Ontario; Hon. A. S. Hardy, Provincial Secretary; and Hugh MacMahon, Esq., Q.C., who arrived in the evening, to deliver addresses in defence of the policy of the Mowat Government, and in support of the candidature of Mr. J. M. Gibson.

The hon. gentlemen and Mr. MacMahon were received at the G. W. R. depot (on the arrival of the train from Toronto) by W. E. Sanford, Esq., J. M. Gibson, Esq., and others, and driven to the Royal Hotel. On Merrick street a grand procession was formed, the band leading, followed by the members of the Young Men's Liberal Association on foot, the distinguished guests in carriages, and other cabs and private carriages, filled with electors, bringing up the rear. The procession was certainly one of the largest and most respectable which has ever taken place in this city. On reaching the Crystal Palace grounds the Young Men's Liberal Association—one hundred and fifty of whose members turned out—opened their ranks and allowed the carriages with the distinguished visitors to pass through when such hearty and enthusiastic cheering greeted Mr. Mowat as has seldom been heard in Hamilton or elsewhere, let the occasion be what it may.

Notwithstanding that the hour for holding the meeting had not more than arrived, every available seat of the hundreds which had been arranged in the Palace was occupied, and hundreds more of the electors had taken up positions on the stairways, in the galleries and wings of the building. It was estimated that not less than five thousand people greeted Mr. Mowat with ringing cheers as he ascended the platform. Amongst those who had seats thereon besides the speakers of the evening there were W. E. Sanford, Esq., President; and J. C. McKeand, Esq., Secretary of the Reform Association, Senator Hope, Messrs. J. M. Gibson, D. Moore and Charles Magill. Occupying seats immediately in front of the platform were the members of the Executive Committee of the Reform Association. Among those present were A. T. Wood, E. Martin, Q.C., Ald. Kennedy, E. Irving, W. Copp, J. Stewart, Ald. Carscallen, ex Ald. Kelly, Ald. Doran, ex-Ald. Chisholm, J. I. Mackenzie, J. Eastwood, C. Donovan, A. Laidlaw, A. Sutherland, J. Moodie, W. P. Moore, Sheriff McKellar, John Harvey, J. W. Murton, W. R. McDonald, R. Brierley, J. W. P. Stewart, G. F. Jelfs, S. F. Lazier, and, in a word, a majority of the leading citizens of Hamilton. Several well-known clergymen and members of the medical and other learned professions also graced the occasion with their presence.

The chair was occupied by Mr. Sanford, Mr. McKeand officiating as Secretary. Quiet having been restored somewhat after the tumultuous reception accorded the visitors,

THE CHAIRMAN stated he observed the first item on the programme was a speech from himself, but as most of the audience were aware, he had just returned from Manitoba, and if he did speak, it would be about town lots, railway reserves, immigration schemes, etc.—(laughter)—but he felt that no speech was required at his hands, especially as they were about to have the privilege of hearing the Premier of Ontario and one of the members of his Cabinet speak on the issues of the day. (Hear, hear and cheers.) He would first introduce to the meeting Mr. Gibson, the Reform candidate, who, he was sure, would prove on the 5th prox. to be the people's candidate. (Cheers.)

MR. GIBSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Gibson, who was received with the greatest enthusiasm, said he proposed to consult the wishes of those present as well as his own inclination by not making a speech on this occasion. He thought it would be very indiscreet on his part to take up any time in addressing them when they had present the Honorable the Premier of Ontario, together with one of the other Ministers and other gentlemen from a distance, whom he believed they would listen to with more interest than to him. He felt gratified to have such a large audience present, composed of electors from every quarter of the City of Hamilton. (Applause.) He was sure he could confidently bespeak from the meeting that attention those who would follow him deserved at the hands of those present. (Hear, hear, and applause.) As the Reform nominee, he was gratified to be able to say that he was meeting with unexpected success in every quarter. The spirit in which he was received everywhere encouraged him to hope that the majority by which he would be returned would be larger than any previous Reform majority on any similar occasion. (Loud applause.) He did not go to the people of Hamilton and ask for their votes on false pretences; he asked them to support him because he thought the Reform Government deserved support. If he were elected, it would be his duty, as it would be his pleasure, to give them a firm and unwavering support. Without detaining them one moment longer, he would give way to those who would follow him, and he once more asked them to give the speakers their best attention, inasmuch as in a room so large there would be some difficulty experienced in hearing the speakers. (Tremendous applause.)

DEPUTATION FROM Y. M. L. A. AND ADDRESS.

THE CHAIRMAN—It is now my privilege and pleasure to introduce a deputation from the Young Men's Liberal Association, who will present an address to the Hon. Mr. Mowat, Premier of Ontario. (Cheers.)

Mr. G. F. JELFS then read the following address:

To the Hon. Oliver Mowat, M.P.P., Premier of the Province of Ontario:

We, the members of the Young Men's Liberal Association of Hamilton, have great pleasure in extending to you a hearty welcome on the occasion of this your visit to our city. We acknowledge with pride and satisfaction our entire approval of the course you have pursued as head of the Ontario Government, as being true to the best interests of the province, true to the spirit of honest and pure legislation, and true to the principles of Reform, which alone are adequate to promote and maintain the welfare of the country at large. The policy pursued by your Government in all matters coming under its cognizance has received the unqualified endorsation of all right-thinking and unprejudiced persons. It is unnecessary in this humble address to go into details. Ample proof of the foregoing statement will be found alone in the matter of education, which never met with greater attention, was never more equitably considered, irrespective of class or creed, and never received a greater impetus than under the present Reform Government of Ontario. In the matter of legislation and the administration of justice, for which Ontario pays not more than half of what this and other provinces paid under Conservative rule, while at the same time with less proportionate parliamentary and executive representation than any of the other provinces, it does its work with greater efficiency.

In pursuing this policy it will be seen by the real and practical decrease in the expenditure, without any injury whatever to the interests of the country, that it is not a Conservative but a Reform maxim that "economy is the means of salvation," especially when guided by intelligence, honesty and skill—all which have been manifested in the policy of the existing Government of Ontario.

Congratulating you on a successful Parliamentary career, we feel certain that we but echo the opinions of every lover of pure government in saying that your Ministry is entitled to the full confidence of the country, and to a sweeping and triumphant election.

We thank you for the distinguished honor you have done our city by coming to address us on the questions affecting our province, and feel sure that your statesmanlike course of action will commend itself to the minds of all who have the pleasure of listening to you.

Signed on behalf of the Young Men's Liberal Association,

S. F. LAZIER, President.
C. DONOVAN, 1st Vice-President.
J. A. MACKENZIE, 2nd Vice-President.
SC. CLAIR BALFOUR, Treasurer.
D. R. SPRINGER, Recording secretary.
G. F. JELFS, Corresponding Secretary.

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Mr. MOWAT, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, said—Mr. President and gentlemen of the Young Men's Liberal Club, I thank you very heartily for the address which you have just read to me. I thank you for the complimentary matter which it contains. I thank you for the approval which it expresses of the measures of the Government of Ontario. I thank you also for the congratulations which you offer to me, and the good wishes which you express. (Cheers.) I rejoice to know that the young men of this Liberal Club are taking an active and intelligent interest in the public affairs of the country. I congratulate my friend Mr. Gibson on the liberal assistance which he is receiving from you, and I would remind you that it is upon the young men of the country that our hopes for the future largely depend. (Hear, hear and cheers.) We are all interested in the prosperity of this land of ours; but you, young men, have more years to live than we older men have, and it is more your interest than ours, therefore, to see that it is well governed. There is no duty more incumbent upon us all than the rightful exercise of the franchise. (Cheers.) It is the franchise which distinguishes more than any thing else a free country from one that is not free. And it is our duty not only to exercise the franchise, but to take great pains that we exercise it rightly, and also to use all possible influences that we possess to the end that those views which we may entertain with regard to political matters may be successful and that our fellow-citizens may support those views of public policy which are in the interests of the country. I know that you, gentlemen, have been investigating these matters and that you have come to a right conclusion with reference to them (hear hear and cheers), and I look forward with hope to the service which you anticipate you render to the country. We are now moulding the character of this country. Its future in all respects largely depends upon what our young men, as well as every one else, may do now, and I have no doubt that good service will be rendered by you in the future as it has been rendered by you now in the support which you are giving to my friend, Mr. Gibson. (Loud cheering.)

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

THE CHAIRMAN—I will now call upon the gentleman who for seven years has so ably stood at the head of the Government of our Province of Ontario, and whose record in connection with our city has also been so pleasing and satisfactory. I now introduce the Hon. Mr. Mowat, the Premier, who will address you. (Enthusiastic and long continued cheering.)

Upon coming forward Mr. MOWAT was received by a storm of cheers again and again renewed. Silence having been obtained, he said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in having this opportunity afforded me of addressing the electors of the City of Hamilton. It is now upwards of twenty years since I had previously an opportunity of this kind. During that period very important political events have taken place. I do not propose upon this occasion to trace the history of those events, nor do I propose giving anything like an exhaustive statement in reference to these matters, which are not now of public interest. I have been speaking frequently during the last two days, and have now a physical difficulty in connection with my voice, which will prevent me, I am afraid, occupying your time as long as I would desire or referring to a number of matters of which I would be glad to speak. Being apprehensive that I may not be able to speak on all the subjects on which I would like to touch, I therefore purpose taking up a few of them as they may occur to my mind. There has just been read in your hearing an address presented to me by the Young Men's Liberal Club of Hamilton. That address expresses confidence in the Ministry of which I am the head, and the electors of Ontario are about to pronounce their opinion as to whether that confidence is entertained by them at large.

MR. MOWAT'S ADMINISTRATION OF AFFAIRS.

In order to form a judgment as to whether the people ought to have confidence in us, we have to consider what we have been doing during the last seven years and what we have omitted to do—what reason there may be why this confidence should be continued in us, and what reason there may be why it should be withheld from us. Perhaps it would be enough to consider the charges which our opponents make against us, and the reasons which they offer to the people why the confidence which has been reposed in us for the last eight years should now be withdrawn.

At this point a question was asked by a person in the outskirts of the crowd, but it was inaudible to those on the platform.

Mr. MOWAT—I have no objection to answer any question that may be put to me, if I am fortunate enough to hear it. Some questions have just now being asked which I have not heard, but I will do my best to make my statement without the assistance of questions when I cannot hear them. (Applause and laughter.) The great reason which is urged, why the people of Ontario should withdraw their confidence from us on this occasion is, that on the 17th of September last, the majority of them declared in favor of what is called

THE "NATIONAL POLICY,"

(hear, hear, and cheers), and it is urged that, having expressed that opinion then, they should vote against us now. I accept the compliment which is paid to the present Government in urging this as the prime reason why the confidence of the people should be withdrawn from us, because it shows that our opponents feel that they have no solid ground on which to object to the present Government. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) This shows that on all matters which ought to be taken into account, that they are very weak and they are afraid that the people will see and feel and pronounce that they are weak. Therefore it is that they ask you to bring in an element which ought not to be introduced here, and which ought to have no bearing on the matter which you are now about to decide. (Hear, hear.) The question of a "National Policy" is one with which the Provincial Legislature and the Provincial Government has nothing to do, and which they cannot influence in the slightest degree; and when you are asked to be influenced in casting your vote against us by something with which we have nothing to do and which we cannot affect in any way, it is quite plain that those who depend upon this means of obtaining support feel that there is no great reason why you should give the vote which they desire you to record. (Loud cheers.) We have no jurisdiction whatever over the tariff. We can neither put on nor take off duties. We cannot interfere in any way with the action of the Dominion Government nor with the action of the Dominion Parliament upon that subject. The Government at Ottawa has a majority of two or three to one, and if they cannot carry out their policy by such a majority, without any help from the Ontario Government, they must be a rotten Government indeed. (Roars of laughter and loud cheers.) The Dominion Government, as I have said, has a majority of from two or three to one in the House of Commons at Ottawa. They have a large majority from every province but one in the Dominion and they have that

MAJORITY SECURE FOR FIVE YEARS.

If with all that advantage, if with the advantage of that enormous superiority in numbers in the House of Commons—a superiority secured for five years—the "National Policy" would be endangered by the Ontario Government not being in political accord with the Administration at Ottawa, then there must be certainly something very wrong either about the Government at Ottawa or about the "National Policy." (Laughter and cheers.)

CANADIAN AND PROVINCIAL ISSUES.

The franchise is very valuable. It is that upon which our freedom rests; but it ought to be exercised, and to be a thing really valuable, it must be exercised intelligently. (Hear, hear.) Now, under our complicated system of government, we have issues of one kind to consider and to influence our votes when we have a Dominion election at hand, and we have other issues entirely different when we are on the eve of a Provincial election. If we have been doing our duty as Provincial Ministers, if our legislation has been right, if our administration of public affairs has been just and proper, then it is for the people of this province to declare their continued confidence in us, even though we may differ from some of them with reference to questions over which the Dominion Government alone has jurisdiction, and with which we have nothing to do. But, while it is perfectly absurd to say that you should be influenced in your minds by having voted against the Reform party on the 17th of September, there is just now

A VERY IMPORTANT REASON

why the Provincial Government should not belong to the same political party as the Government at Ottawa. (Hear, hear.) There are reasons in which all of you are interested—whether you are Conservatives or Reformers. Our system implies that there may be and ought to be friendly official relations between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, though they may not belong to the same party, and our experience hitherto has been that such relations may exist. When we have had a Dominion Government of the Conservative party, I found no difficulty in maintaining proper official relations with them. When Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie were in power at Ottawa, there were provinces in which their party was not in control of public affairs, but there was no difficulty experienced by them in maintaining friendly official relations with the latter. If all the provinces of the Dominion should always be in the hands of the same party as was supreme in Dominion politics, then I would despair of the success of our federal system. (Hear, hear.) It was framed and constituted upon the assumption that our Dominion matters were one thing and our Provincial matters another, and that there was no reason and no necessity why both should be administered by the same party. I have said, however, that whatever may be the general rule, and even supposing that it were not so clear as I have stated and as it really is, there is at this moment

A SPECIAL REASON

why all the people of this country, Conservatives and Reformers alike, should recognize the importance of the Government at Toronto having nothing to do with the political considerations which may influence the Government at Ottawa. We have lately had an important award made, which affects us more largely than perhaps any other transaction which we are likely to have for many years to come. The extent of our territory is a matter which has long been in dispute. Some of the questions involved in it have been in controversy for a century or two. It has been reserved, however, for the present Government of Ontario to deal finally with this question, which has been complicated and long the subject of dispute. We have dealt with it by having an arbitration appointed to consider it and by making an exhaustive collection of a vast body of materials necessary to be examined in order to ascertain what the extent of our territory really is. Finally, we have obtained an award by which the territory over which we have been previously exercising jurisdiction has been increased by the addition of another territory just as large. (Cheers.) So that, by means of this award, we have now an adjudicated right to twice the territory which we had when the Reform Government came into power. (Renewed cheering.) This province of ours in which we live, in which all our interests lie, to which we are all strongly attached, and for which we have such glorious hopes in the future, is now larger in extent than Great Britain and Ireland. It is nearly as large as the whole Republic of France, and it is capable of bearing and maintaining in comfort as large a population as either of these lands can do. (Applause.) Such a territory is not to be thrown away and it is

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM US

either against our will. (Loud cheers.) The award which gave it to us was made by arbitrators of the greatest ability and of the highest character. This award secured to us no more than our rights, and perhaps not all that we were strictly entitled to; but, at all events, it gave us all that our people desire, and as large a territory as we can usefully possess. In order to confirm this result, however, legislation was needed by your own Legislature at Toronto, and by the Parliament at Ottawa. We did legislate in this direction last session. We accepted the award. We passed the necessary law to confirm it, but the Government at Ottawa has failed to do its duty in the matter, and has neglected to recognize this award. It has not recognized this result either by passing the necessary Act to confirm it or by a letter, or by a word, intimating that they intended to do so. Are we going to suffer to the loss of that territory? (Voices—No, no!) Are we to have it taken from us? Are we to submit to any Government refusing to give effect to the rights of Ontario in regard to this very important matter? (Cheers.) Why was not this matter disposed of last session by the Dominion Administration? Why have they not distinctly recognized our right to the territory which the arbitrators have given to us?

I KNEW OF NO REASON.

I have heard no suggestion of a reason; no reason can be suggested in this relation—unless it is a political reason and political necessity. The influences of other provinces, the influence in some way or other of other provinces which may have an absurd jealousy of the power which such a large territory might bestow on the Province of Ontario in the future, may have led to this want of action. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that you should have a Government at Toronto that will not be influenced by the same political considerations as the Government at Ottawa. (Prolonged cheering.) You need in the interest of your own province, whether Conservatives or Reformers, to have a

GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL INSIST ON THE RIGHTS OF ONTARIO

being respected and preserved intact whatever political reasons another Government may have found for refusing to give effect to them. So far, therefore, at this moment from there being any reason whatever why the two Governments should be in "political accord," there is the strongest reason—there is a stronger reason probably than ever again may exist—why you should have a Government at Toronto that is not in "political accord" with the Administration at Ottawa. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Now that absurd position that the two Governments ought to be in "political accord" is the chief argument used with many electors to induce them to vote against us upon this occasion. But when you examine into the matter you find that the reason is entirely the other way. We should have many Conservatives, not otherwise with us, joining us on patriotic grounds upon this particular occasion. (Hear, hear.) Now we have had the confidence of the people of Ontario for the last seven or eight years. How is it we have had this confidence? What has led to our receiving this confidence in the marked way in which we have been bestowed upon us? I apprehend that it has been owing to various causes, and perhaps to none more than to this—that our people recognize in our legislation and administration of affairs that

WE HAVE BEEN A FAIR GOVERNMENT;

that we have been fair to all localities (hear, hear, and rounds of applause), to all parties, and to all creeds and classes too. (Renewed cheering.) Though we have had, under our system, to rely upon the support of one party, yet we have striven earnestly in all that we have done—whether in legislation, in the administration of public affairs, in disposing of great questions which our predecessors were unable to dispose of, and which they left to us to settle, and also in the management of the finances of the country—to take the greatest possible care to benefit our political opponents just as much as our political friends. (Hear, hear and applause.) Accordingly our laws have been doing justice exactly as much to the ungrateful Conservatives as to our friends, the Reformers. (Laughter and cheers.) We have for the last seven or eight years been doing good to these Conservatives

IN SPITE OF THEMSELVES

(renewed laughter), and we are going to continue to do them good in spite of themselves for four years more. (Loud cheering and laughter.) In our laws we have occupied the whole field of legislative jurisdiction which belongs to the province. We have passed laws reforming your municipal institutions and your educational institutions. We have reformed the laws relative to property and civil rights. We have reformed the laws relating to the administration of justice and every other subject over which we had any power, and we have done this so effectually, so carefully and so successfully that whilst we have passed hundreds of Acts, embracing every variety of important subjects, there is hardly one of them which has not received the approbation—I do not say of our own friends merely, I do not say of the majority of the people merely, but the approbation of the whole of the people in every part of the province and belonging to all parties and classes. (Loud applause.) If there is an Act or two in this number of important statutes to which occasional objection is taken here or there, it is of a very limited kind; even our political opponents are not united in objecting to any of them. What are they? Of all the vast number of laws that have been passed and of which you are now enjoying the benefit, what are those to which any objection whatever is made?

WE GAVE YOU THE INCOME FRANCHISE.

A few object to that. But whilst our friends are satisfied with it, a very large number of our opponents equally approve of this franchise. We have not taken away from anybody the right of voting which he possessed before, but we have added to the electorate a considerable number of persons who before had no votes. Our measure for that purpose was opposed by the Conservatives, but it was carried in spite of them, and now they declare that it has worked to their advantage and to our disadvantage. Assuming that to be a fact, you will find in this circumstance another illustration of how fairly we have acted, of how little we have thought of party advantage when we were advising measures for promoting the general good, and for doing justice to the various classes of the community. (Cheers.) A few object to what is called

THE FARMERS' SONS' FRANCHISE,

but there, also, the Conservatives claim that they have gained a greater advantage than we have. Our reason for granting this franchise was because we thought that it ought, in justice, to be given. You will observe that it is not every farmer's son who has the franchise bestowed upon him under our Act, but only those sons who are living with their fathers and assisting them in the management of the farm, and who are practically, though not legally, their partners. This affected a class of persons whose names were constantly found under the old system upon the assessment rolls and on the voters' lists, though they had no right to be there. Public sentiment was strong that young men so situated ought to have votes; some of them were voting in spite of the law. They were attached to the country, they had an interest in the soil, they were contemplating permanent residence here. They were well educated, they were intelligent persons, and there did seem to be no sufficient reason why the public sentiment on that subject should not be so far consulted that we should make legal what had been done before illegally. Now, we thereby added a considerable number of names to the voters' lists. The income franchise did not benefit the country at all. Seldom or ever was there found anybody who was entitled to vote on the ground of income franchise in the townships. There were not many in the villages, but there were some in the towns and more in the cities. The farmers' franchise was a subsequent Act, and in it we made provision for that class of persons to whom it referred in the rural parts of the country. This again was a measure, which, while our friends generally approved of it, our opponents are by no means united in objecting to it. On the contrary, I have no doubt that if on the point you could poll the Conservatives of the country, you would find that a very small proportion indeed would object to the farmers' sons having the franchise with the restriction under the circumstances for which our Act provided, and this therefore is another illustration of how fairly we have acted even in the most delicate parts of the legislation with which we have had to do.

THE GENERAL INCORPORATION ACT.

We also, amongst a multitude of Acts which we have passed for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the country, and the well-being of its people, have passed a General Incorporation Act, under which any one, any number of persons may become incorporated for any purpose that is not illegal. There has been one misapplication of that Act. An attempt has been made to render it the means of fastening strong odium upon myself and my colleagues. We passed this measure to make private Acts of Parliament for the incorporation of special bodies thereafter unnecessary. (Hear, hear.) There were great advantages attendant upon this course. A charter to incorporate under our General Act may be obtained at any time. You do not have to wait until Parliament meets for the purpose. It is secured by a very simple process which requires no lawyer's assistance and the whole expense of it is, I believe, about ten cents for fyling the document. (Laughter.) The machinery is as simple as it was possible for one to devise, so that there is no difficulty in the way of securing incorporation under its provisions.

THE ORANGE BODY.

There is a very important body in this country, whose leaders have endeavored to convince them that it is an unjust thing that they should not obtain incorporation by a Special Act of Parliament instead of becoming incorporated under this General Act. Well, we were bound to object to any special Acts after passing our General Act, or otherwise the General Act would be comparatively useless. Its effect has been that we have had from forty to fifty less statutes passed every session, than, but for this law, we would have had, and very important public bodies have from time to time been incorporated under the general laws which now exist for this purpose. I am sure that the Orangemen would not desire to be in a different position to others if their leaders were not misleading them about this matter. (Hear, hear.) I have no doubt that they fancy—they have not the slightest ground for such a fancy—that they are unjustly treated in this matter; while the fact is that no injustice is done them at all. This their leaders know; but they have political reasons for persuading the members of the body that they are treated unjustly, and in consequence of this attempt they have fastened odium on the present Government in connection with this subject.

A VOICE—Why did you vote for it?

Mr. MOWAT—I will just answer that question, because it shows the sort of talk by which friends like our friend who has just spoken have been misled in regard to this very matter. I voted for the incorporation of Orangemen when there was no general Act under which they could be incorporated. (Enthusiastic cheers.) Whether right or wrong, I did not see why Orangemen should not have the advantage of incorporation, and if the laws of the country enabled that to be done in no other way than by a special Act of Parliament, then, whether I was right or wrong, I thought that the Orangemen should have a special Act for the purpose, and I voted for it accordingly. We all know the excitement which always arose when an attempt was made to pass a Bill of this kind. The same excitement prevailed in the old Province of Canada, when I was a member of its Parliament, whenever the subject was brought up, and it was most desirable therefore that incorporation, when obtained, should be secured in such a way as would not involve this excitement, and as might be regarded without hostile feelings by any class of the community. When a general Act was passed with that view, and which enabled this to be done, then there was no longer even a justification for passing a private Act for the purpose. We have therefore since opposed the passage of a private Act for the incorporation of the body just as we would oppose private Acts for the incorporation of every other body, which can be as well incorporated under the General Act. That is my answer to my friend. (Loud cheers.)

THE SEPARATE SCHOOL ACT.

A VOICE—What about the Separate Schools?

Mr. MOWAT—Well, I may here say something on this subject since my friend is so very importunate and so very anxious for information. I dare say that he is going to become a Reformer and only wants a good reason for becoming one. (Laughter.) I can easily give him an answer. If all he desires is to make himself right and to have good reasons for becoming right, I can very easily furnish this reason. (Hear, hear and laughter.) We have made some amendments in the Separate School law—into which we have introduced some reforms—which were not objected to by the leaders of my friend and his associates in the House of Parliament at the time. Our amendments to which, I suppose, he makes some objection, were amendments to which his own leaders dare not object, and did not object when the Bill was before the House. (Cheers.) Surely he must see that there cannot be any very great objection to provisions to which his own leaders on the floor of the House made no objection. (Applause.)

CHARITABLE GRANTS.

I have been illustrating how fairly in all respects we have acted towards all parties and classes and creeds. Let me mention another illustration of the same thing. It has been customary, for many years before Confederation and since Confederation, to make grants to hospitals and charities out of the public funds, but there was no principle on which these grants were distributed. There was always a pressure for grants to new bodies, which had not previously been receiving such public aid. There was always a pressure likewise brought to bear for the increase of grants which had been previously bestowed. Well, we passed a general Act upon that subject, as we passed a general Act in regard to incorporations, because these general Acts are always safer than particular Acts. (Hear, hear.) They are apt to be far better considered, and there is apt to be far less wrong in them than sometimes these special Acts contain. Now, to illustrate this remark, let me go back again for a moment to the matter of the Orange Bills. The Orange Bill, as first introduced, contained a provision for the vesting of the whole property of all the lodges of the whole country in the Grand Lodge. I did think this was

A MOST OBJECTIONABLE THING.

I did think—though I did not feel it to be my duty to oppose the Bill on that ground when no general incorporating Act was in existence—that this was very objectionable. I thought that the leaders of the Orange body were misleading their followers and inducing them to insist upon that which they did not understand, or they would not themselves have supported this line of action after my Bill providing for the incorporation of the individual lodges was enacted, and that each lodge might hold its own property. The general Bill was therefore a far better Bill than the one which was introduced by the Orange leaders, and this Bill ought to have given far greater satisfaction to the individual lodges—when they come to understand it—than even the private and special Bill which they were asking the House to pass. This was also the case with regard to the charities. We were anxious to find some principle on which new bodies should be added to those which were in receipt of grants and upon which there should be increases made, when reason for such increase existed. Our Act made provision for this purpose, and from that time we have increased no grant to hospitals or charities except in the proportion of the amount of good done. (Cheers.) We have laid down certain rules which enable us to judge of the amount of work done and for providing for the inspection of these bodies with that view. I know that privately—not so much publicly as privately—we have been maligned because of this Act, inasmuch as hitherto it has happened that the larger amount of the increase has gone to one (hear, hear)—denomination of our people than to other denominations. It so happens that we have had a larger increase of work accomplished in their institutions than has been done in Protestant institutions, therefore we have been told that we are a priest-ridden Government because of this accidental result of a very good law. But we have acted fairly in this matter too. We have acted

WITHOUT REFERENCE TO CREED OR TO CLASS

in the matter, and if a Protestant institution shows that it has been doing more work it gets a larger grant, while if a Catholic institution shows that it has been doing more work it receives a larger grant (cheers), and I misunderstand the spirit of our people of all creeds and all classes if they will not recognize the justice of the principle which we have thus laid down, and on which we are acting, provided that they are made to understand the real character of this measure. They must be misled as to the course which we are taking, when they find in that course anything to condemn. Indeed so fairly have we been acting, and so entirely are we without reproach on the ground of unfairness or partiality, that I myself am charged in Toronto with being an enemy of the very city in which I live, in which nearly all my property is, and with which all my private interests are bound up. Of course I have not been an enemy to the city. I have been as true to Toronto as to Hamilton and every part of the country, whether east or west, north or south. (Loud cheers.) But because I have not done more for Toronto than I ought to have done, because I have not been unfair to the rest of the country, my opponents now are trying to make the people of Toronto believe that I have actually been hostile to that city. I think that I do not need clearer evidence to lay before the people of the whole community of the absolute fairness of the Government with which I have been connected than to show that we have so acted as to make it possible for the electors of the city in which I live and where my property is to have an argument of that kind addressed to them as a reason why I should be defeated there on the 5th of June next. (Renewed cheering.) I need not recount here the good things which Toronto has received from the Government, but I may remind you that

WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE CLAIMS OF HAMILTON

(applause)—just as we recognized the claims of every other part of the community having claims upon our consideration and have given due effect to them. We have recognized the importance of this city of yours; we recognize its importance from its convenient locality, from its magnificent harbor, and especially from the extraordinary enterprise and public spirit and energy and business ability which its people have always displayed. (applause.) How has our recognition manifested itself? Not by anything which I cannot defend everywhere—not by anything which I cannot defend either in Ottawa, or in Toronto, or in Barrie. But still by very important advantages, which a less fair Government might not have conferred upon you. (Hear, hear.) We have had for example but two institutions erected in our time. One of these was the Normal School at Ottawa, and the other was the Lunatic Asylum here. Therefore, we gave you one of the only two institutions which were built in our time. We have asked the Legislature to sanction our building here in Hamilton. (Cheers.) You know well that you are interested in railroads which run through various parts of the country to Hamilton, but what are really Hamilton roads, because it is your people who have projected them; your people that have advocated them, and to your people altogether that their existence is owing, and you know how much these roads of yours, from which you are going to derive a large prosperity, from which you are deriving great advantage at the present moment, have been aided by the Government, and how large the sums are which we have granted from the Provincial Treasury for this purpose. (Cheers.) Altogether it is

NOT MUCH LESS THAN $1,500,000

which we have given to these works, in which Hamilton is specially interested. (Renewed cheering.) Now, I merely allude to this matter for the purpose of further illustrating the fact that in all our acts, whether legal or administrative, we have done just what was right. We have not given you more than you ought to have; but we have given you all that you should have, and that is more than any of our predecessors did. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

THE SURPLUS.

A VOICE—What about the surplus?

Mr. MOWAT—I think that I hear some discontented friend amongst you calling out—"The surplus." Now there is no illustration that I could give which furnishes you more clear proof of what I have been pointing out than the very way in which we have distributed the surplus; because we did so on principles that were to apply everywhere. In proportion to the population of every municipality was to be the proportion of the surplus that the municipality was to receive; and accordingly we have given in the same proportion to the Tory municipalities and to the Reform municipalities, (hear, hear and laughter)—to those who politically did not deserve anything of us and to those who politically deserved everything of us. (Laughter and applause.) Early in the present controversy, having reference to the general election, it used to be said that the Government of Ontario ought not to be continued in office because they were not capable men, and that they were not equal to the duties which belonged to the offices they held. We have not heard much of this lately. (A laugh.) A very little discussion has made this statement appear so very absurd that even our absurdest opponents hardly ever venture on it now, because it was found that during our term of office we had to deal with several very important matters which ought to have been settled previously, which

OUR PREDECESSORS WERE AFRAID OR WERE UNABLE

to grapple with, and that we had disposed satisfactorily and in the public interest with every one of them. The Boundary Question is one of them, and there never was a more difficult matter than that before the Government, and very probably there never again will be. We disposed of it in a way so satisfactory that the Dominion Government, in the interests of the other provinces, seems unwilling to give effect to it. We also disposed, satisfactorily to all parties and to every portion of the province, of that great grievance which arose from the Confederation of the (hear, hear)—which was a grievance twenty-five years old, which was increasing every year and which our opponents ought to have disposed of long before our time, but which they did not dispose of—which they were unable or afraid to dispose of. (Hear, hear.) It was left for a Reform Government to settle this matter and we did it satisfactorily. So I might go on and point out to you the various important Acts of legislation which we have passed, and a good deal of what ought to have been anticipated long ago. Much of this was to supply wants which our people had long ago felt, but those who preceded us either did not see the evil or they did not see the remedy. They were either heedless as to providing the necessary remedy or were incapable of doing it. I could go on and give you numerous instances of the reforms which we have brought about, but you know something of them. The discussion of the absurd charge which I have mentioned has, as I have already stated, been lately abandoned, and the people of this country are pretty well satisfied that whatever the capacity of the present Government may or may not be, at all events there is not the slightest reason for supposing that equal capacity exists on the Opposition benches. (Laughing and cheers.)

OUR FINANCES.

I feel myself unable to proceed much longer, and yet I want to say something to you with regard to our finances, because at the present time, apart from the absurd ground given for voting against us, owing to the "National Policy," the great charge levelled against us is that we have not properly managed the expenditure, and that we have been employing the public money in an extravagant way. I dispute the pretension wholly and absolutely. I say that we have been employing the public money rightly. (Cheers.) We have expended the whole of it, of which we have made use, in the public interest, and we have been employing it all economically. Those who attack us in this matter are in the habit of pointing out how much money has been employed each year since the Reform Government came into office, and how much public money was expended when Sandfield Macdonald was Premier, but then you will easily see upon a little reflection how absurd that is, unless they go on and show what we have been employing the money for. (Hear, hear.) We have a reserve of two and a half millions of dollars. That was a surplus accumulated by Sandfield Macdonald, of from $4,000,000 to $5,000,000. But we could usefully employ in this country and for the