

SPEECH

BY

Hon. Geo. W. Ross

AT THE SIFTON BANQUET.

Hon Geo. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario, was given a magnificent ovation on rising to address the friends of Mr. Sifton. Mr. Ross said: I thank you very much for your cordial reception. In enthusiasm and volume it is all that I could desire—indeed, far more than I deserve. The Liberal Party in Ontario may have lost its majority, but certainly it has not lost its voice. I am glad to have the privilege of being present to do honor to Mr. Sifton. We all rejoice with him in the victory he achieved—a victory in which Sir Hibbert Tupper was vanquished if not annihilated, and in which Hugh John Macdonald, trusting to the prophecies of Sir Charles Tupper, risked his political life with consequences well known to them all. I need hardly say that I am not surprised at Mr. Sifton's success. Mr. Sifton is a Middlesex boy, and Middlesex boys are well known for their winning ways, and if my presence here to-night is any mark of esteem for Mr. Sifton, I am only settling a debt I owe his father for valuable services rendered me in my first campaign in 1872.

MR. SIFTON'S POSITION.

Mr. Sifton occupies a somewhat unique position in the Dominion Government. He is the only representative in the Cabinet of the greater Canada west of the lakes. He speaks for a district which is an empire in itself, and greater in area than any