

MASSEY-HARRIS binder will accomplish in half that time.

Such is the regeneration that has been brought about by the onward march of progress.

All things that are great and powerful to-day have had their rise from small things. In states, in empires, in provinces and in cities is this exemplified. By commercial and industrial enterprises and by professional avocations is it made apparent. The world of arts and letters bears unmistakable evidence to its truth. The realm of agriculture is a living witness of the fact.

But in no more emphatic way is the march of

progress, in this country, displayed than in its Parliaments—the House of Commons at Ottawa and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario at present in session at the capital of this banner province.

Of the latter body we are more immediately concerned.

Just as it took centuries and years of assiduous toil ere Rome fought her way up to supremacy and power, so it has required a century of legislation to advance the parliament of Ontario to its present high estate.

There was a long interval between the mud hovels of Romulus and the marble palaces of the crafty nephew of Julius Ceasar; likewise years, decades and generations have intervened since Governor Simcoe assembled the first parliament of Ontario in quaint old Niagara town (then Newark) and the opening of the present buildings three years ago by the Lieut. Governor of the Province.

Since 1792 Ontario has had four legislative chambers, one at Niagara and three in the present capital of the province. Beginning with a log shanty she has advanced to a pile of buildings "with brown stone fronts and southern exposures," that, in some particulars, would be a credit to any province, state or dominion in the universe.

In 1835 her legislators, growing tired of dusty desks and flickering smoky grates, of dark corridors and dimly lighted offices, finally decided, after much delay, to provide themselves with a chamber that would be more congenial to themselves, more creditable to the Province, and more convenient for the work with which they had to do. Accordingly the present

spacious offices were called into existence, and after a lapse of only six years the building stood completed; covering as it does four acres, and containing within its walls two hundred rooms.

This edifice is delightfully situated at the southern end of Queen's Park, in the very heart of the residential portion of the city. Flanked on the west by the grounds and buildings of University college, bounded on the east by some of Toronto's most pretentious homes, and overlooking to the south broad Queen street avenue, sloping away to the bay, with its graceful elms spreading their leafy branches overhead, and forming a vista through which may be seen the blue waters of Lake Ontario beyond—the site is grand indeed.

There has been much difference of opinion as to the architectural beauty of these buildings. In fact we have heard people say that if the architect had provided a means whereby one could be smuggled in without seeing the exterior, the success of the work would have been much more pronounced. While not going to this extent we cannot but admit that in comparison with the Ottawa buildings they are disappointing. The House of Commons with its octagonal library at the Dominion's capital is certainly a marvel of beauty. Without doubt these are the most beautiful buildings on the continent, not excepting the Capitol at Washington, and especially, if viewed at night all lighted up, they have a celestial appearance savoring more of fairyland and dreams than of reality. This criterion, however, is hardly a fair one when we bear in mind the difference in the cost of the two structures, nevertheless the most satisfactory portion of the new work is that of the interior. Unlike the corridors at Ottawa, the halls are wide and spacious, the rooms large and commodious; and so in a way perhaps things are neutralized. The new buildings are well lighted and they are bright, in fact in this latter respect do they excel. One notices it on all sides. Its brilliancy is the prevailing charm of the place.

When one saunters up to the main entrance on a still, bracing night, feeling that elasticity of

