

## TRUST THE PEOPLE

### VOTING SUPPLIES.

It is historically true that throughout the long Parliamentary fight for the extension of the franchise and for Government by the representatives of the people, the Liberal party has always brought about every step in advance. It has always been their policy to **TRUST THE PEOPLE**. It is quite true that the Conservative party to-day would readily accept many things which would not have been acceptable to even the Liberal party a century ago, but at the time each reform has been gained, it has been due to the efforts of the Liberal party. Throughout this long contest it has become established as a fundamental principal of popular Government, without which representative institutions cannot stand, that the representatives of the people in Parliament must control the expenditures of the public money through an annual vote. This has proved to be ever an effective check upon extravagance and waste. It has remained for **the Whitney Government** to step 100 years backwards and in autocratic fashion to take away from the representatives of the people the right of voting annual supplies. The particular instance is in connection with the University of Toronto which, by the Statute passed in 1907, is entitled, for all future time, to one-half of the annual receipts of the Province from Succession Duty, averaged over each preceding three years. This money, be the amount great or small, goes direct to the Governors of the University without being passed upon by the Legislature.

The present Leader of the Opposition protested very vigorously against this provision when the bill was going through the House, and the Conservatives have referred to this opposition as showing that the Hon. Mr. MacKay and the Liberals were unfriendly to the University. This is entirely untrue. The Liberal party believe that the University of Toronto should get the fullest support that it can reasonably require, but they do not believe that that support will be impaired by annually requiring that estimates shall be brought down and discussed. An opportunity would thus be given for every member, by inquiry from the Minister, to familiarize himself with the whole working of the University, to keep in touch with its aims and objects and to assist in making it grow stronger and more efficient. The money for every other institution is voted annually by the House and it is a peculiar anomaly that the retrogression in constitutional practice should