

Mr. Ross at Niagara Falls.

A large party of Liberals crossed the lake on the *Chippewa* on the afternoon of the 21st of September to meet the Premier and Mrs. Ross at Niagara Falls. Among those present were Hon. E. J. Davis, Commissioner of Crown Lands; Hon. R. Harcourt, Minister of Education; Hon. J. Dryden, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. J. T. Garrow, K.C.; Messrs. H. M. Mowat, K.C., Hugh Blain, Rev. Dr. Dewart, etc., etc. At Niagara Falls wharf a procession was organized headed by the band of the Q.O.R., which proceeded to the Park to meet Mr. and Mrs. Ross, who were arriving by special train. Mr. H. M. Mowat, K.C., presided, and presented the congratulations of the Liberal party to the Premier on his safe return to Canada, assuring him that all were united—Reformers, Imperialists, Radicals and old Liberals—in the desire to give him an enthusiastic and affectionate welcome home. He said: "Liberals love a leader who leads, and they always fall in behind a leader in whose honesty of purpose they believe—a leader whose love of country is conspicuous and intense. Your countrymen have noted with pride your efforts in the Old Country to stimulate the interest of the English, Scotch and Irish people in Canada. We have all known you were ever ready to take hammer in hand for the forging of the links of the Empire, and your public endeavors to make the people thoroughly understand the methods of strengthening the commercial ties between Canada and the Old Country and directing immigrants to our wheat fields and forests have been followed with pride and satisfaction."

As the Premier stepped forward to reply he was greeted with cheer after cheer of welcome, and he could not at first make himself heard. He said:—

Mr. Mowat, ladies and gentlemen,—I have done so little public speaking during the last five or six weeks that I am quite unable to reply adequately to the kind words with which my name has been mentioned and my public services characterized. I would be strangely constituted indeed if I did not feel more than ordinarily impressed with the generous and friendly reception which you have given me on my return to my beloved Ontario. (Applause.)

I left Ontario for two purposes: Firstly, I wanted to look into several matters in England which I thought would be better understood on the ground than they could be studied at a distance, and, secondly, I have served my country so faithfully that I thought I