

policy, and to conserve our resources for the people—our lands for the settlers.

"We protest against the financial waste of the present Government, of which Government House serves but as an illustration, while the Government last year cut down the grants to our rural public schools twenty-eight per cent.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

"The Departments of Agriculture and Education are the most important departments of our Government; but they have been treated as second-rate departments by the present Government. In a Province unsurpassed in natural advantages for mixed farming, and with a consuming population demanding more than we are producing, we are faced with a steady decline in our rural population, and a diminution, in more recent years, in our food production. With the decline in rural population has come a decline in the strength and vitality of the rural school and the rural church in many sections of the Province. The whole question of rural life presents a problem of great magnitude and importance, of which the present Government does not appear to be cognizant, but which we must face and solve if we are to preserve our national strength and vitality.

"Our most urgent need at the present time is a Minister of Agriculture possessing the qualities of leadership, with a thorough understanding of the agricultural situation, and the courage and capacity to co-operate with the agricultural interests of the Province in progressive movements to remedy and improve existing conditions. We promise, if returned to power, to put at the head of the department the best man to be found in the Province of Ontario, whether elected at this general election or not.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

"The Department of Education, under the present Government, has lost the confidence of the people. A Conservative newspaper has pointed out that the Minister has his eyes on the ballot box rather than on the schools of the Province. If our educational problems are to be solved, if our educational progress is not to be further retarded, we must have a Minister of Education with modern educational ideals, and with courage and capacity and sympathy to work out the grave educational problems of this Province. Our greatest difficulties arise not so much from our