

A REVIEW OF THE WHITNEY GOVERNMENT'S EDUCATIONAL POLICY

SPEECH

OF

VALENTIN STOCK, M. P. P.

for South Perth, delivered March 10th, 1909, in the Ontario Legislature.

Mr. Stock after scoring the members of the Cabinet for breaking their many promises made while in opposition, to deal more economically with the public money, turned his attention especially to the Government's expenditure on Education and said verbatim as follows:

We Liberals do not complain of the amount of money this Government spends on Education, but we do ask, are the people getting full value for their money. That seems to me the all important question in all expenditure. Examination will show that the Government's educational policy is not yielding returns commensurate with the amount spent. Under the Liberal Government we had an excellent Educational System, not perfect, perhaps, for no system can be perfect as long as the people strive onward and upward, and aim at new ideals. That system was, however, acknowledged one of the best in the world. It was so declared at the World's Fair by three judges considered competent to decide on the merit of the various systems of the world. It was also so proven by the manner in which the product of that system, the graduates of our schools and colleges, were sought by the sister provinces, by the United States and oth-

er lands, even so far away as the island continent in the Pacific Ocean. It would hardly be fair to that system to speak of it as though it would be the same system today, after the lapse of years since it was in force. If the former administration had remained in power advances would have been made in the direction of new ideals. The growing nation was striving for changes. I, myself, in my maiden speech in these halls advocated certain advances. I have noticed since that the late Minister of Education pleaded for advancement along the lines of technical education, and it is not saying too much that if he had remained in his position considerable changes along advancing lines would be noticeable to-day. It is not unfair to examine closely the new system introduced by this government to see whether it is really an improvement and an advance. If it is not, then harm has been done. The honorable members of the Government should welcome such examination, for no doubt, they are desirous of giving the Province the best system possible.

I appreciate their efforts at improving the teacher and the teacher's conditions in this age when so many parents neglect, and by their neglect unwittingly delegate their most