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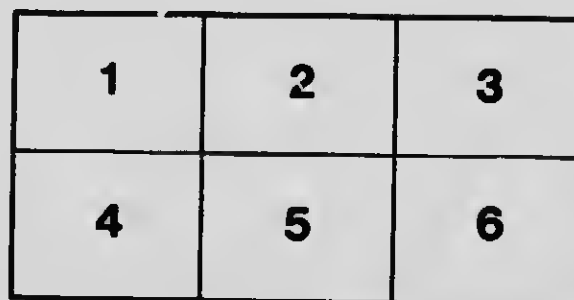
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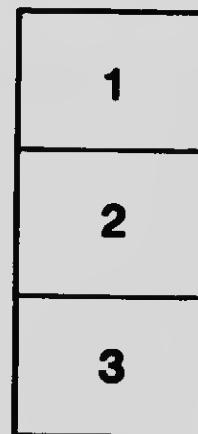
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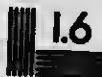
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# Premier Whitney at Hamilton.

His Message to the Ontario  
Electorate.

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# The Whitney Speech

At his Hamilton meeting on May 5, Premier Whitney opened the Conservative campaign before an audience of two thousand people. His speech, verbatim, reproduced from the Hamilton Spectator, is as follows:

The night of May 5, 1908, will go down as one of the greatest occasions in the history of the Hamilton Conservatives. It was felt from the moment the announcement was made that Hon. J. P. Whitney would open his campaign in Hamilton that the event would be one of special importance, and such proved to be the case. It is no exaggeration to say that it was the greatest political meeting ever held in Hamilton. The Savoy theater if it had been four times the size would have been filled. The doors were open at 7 o'clock, and the theater was filled in a remarkably short space of time, and those who wandered around at about 7.30 found two big policemen at either entrance, to prevent them getting in, for the place was already crowded to its limit. The disappointed ones immediately made a bee-line for the Sun Life building, where an overflow meeting had been arranged in the Conservative clubrooms. That meeting was also packed, and there must have been hundreds who were unable to hear either Premier Whitney or the Hon. W. J. Hanna.

The arrangements were carried out to the letter, and the committee in charge is deserving of the most unstinted praise. The efficient staff of the Savoy theater, under William Stroud and John Appleton, had much to do with the creditable handling of the crowd. While the speakers were being waited for, the Savoy orchestra played a popular program, and the management of the theater also provided a moving picture exhibition. The space between the orchestra chairs and the railing of the orchestra pit had been reserved for the press, which was largely represented. Each of the Toronto newspapers sent reporters, and other outside places having men there were London, Montreal, Ottawa and Kingston. Telegraph instruments were placed under the

stage, and the newspaper men were able to get their stuff out quickly. C. J. Jones, of the C.P.R. Telegraph Co., personally superintended the arrangements, which were entirely satisfactory.

Promptly at 8.05 the curtain went up and revealed Hon. J. P. Whitney and the members of his cabinet, with a big crowd of local Conservatives and prominent business men of Hamilton on the platform. The reception accorded the premier must have done his heart good. It was spontaneous and enthusiastic to a degree, and needed no prompting from any ardent spirit on the platform. For nearly two hours he riveted the attention of the audience. There were no signs of weariness on the part of anyone. Mr. Whitney's address was so cleverly handled and the points made with such clarity and emphasis that his hearers were deeply interested every moment. The presence of a large number of ladies, who occupied the boxes and also seats in the body of the house, made the gathering altogether out of the ordinary.

The impression made by the premier on his audience was that there was nothing of the grandiloquent or bombastic about his utterances. His statement that everyone would get a square deal from him was accepted absolutely. There was nothing that smacks of "gallery" talk in his speech, and it was almost a shock to some in the audience when he came out flat-footed on the technical college question and said no matter whether Hamilton elected two Grits or two Tories it would not affect the way he would deal with this city on the subject. He was not in the business of holding out a bribe to any constituency, and would make no other promise than that Hamilton would in any event get a square deal. Another thing that the audience admired was his fairness and total absence of bitterness in speaking of political opponents.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

### President Milne, of the Conservative Association, Occupied the Chair

In a few preliminary remarks, wisely curtailed, for the audience was keen to hear the premier, John E. Milne, as chairman, said he was glad to see so large and representative a gathering present to do honor to Premier Whitney. Mr. Milne felt that an honor had been done Hamilton by Mr. Whitney in selecting it as the place to make the opening speech of the campaign, and the chairman thought the honor was appreciated by the magnificent audience. Mr. Whitney's coming would do the Conservatives of Hamilton good. His government had been three years in power, and its record had been a remarkable one. Many important questions had been threshed out that had resulted in incalculable benefits to the province. One of the most vital questions settled was that of the numbered ballot, and, if for no other reason, Mr. Whitney was entitled to the confidence and support of the people on that issue alone. The secret ballot was a great boon to the people. They were not afraid to vote as their consciences directed. The days of stuffed ballot boxes and wretched mismanagement which had disgraced the Ross government were over. In the recent by-election in East Hamilton something had been made of the prison labor question, a system that had been introduced and carried out by the Ross and Mowat governments. Mr. Milne knew that Mr. Whitney did not approve of it, and the day was not far off when it would be banished along with the other evils that Mr. Whitney had succeeded in stamping out. The hydro-electric power scheme was one in which the people of Hamilton were particularly interested, and was one of the most important questions that the province had to face at present. Mr. Whitney and his colleagues had taken the stand that the power-producing streams and waterfalls in the province should be reserved for the benefit of the people in the province. It was not the wish of the government nor Mr. Whitney to injure the large private concerns interested in the power business. The Cataract Power Co. and the other electrical development companies deserved credit for their enterprise, but the greater question of conserving and reserving the natural resources of the

company was one that the Whitney government was trying to carry out. As a member of the original commission which had obtained information on the subject, Mr. Milne could vouch for its accuracy, for it was backed by the brains of the best engineers obtainable.

Mr. Milne gave way to the candidate for West Hamilton, who was received with loud cheers.

## HE WAS BRIEF

### Col. Hendrie Made Short But Appropriate Speech

Col. Hendrie, as usual, spoke briefly but to the point. Said he: "I think tonight that we have a larger representation of the fair sex than at any political meeting I have attended. I am glad to see that, for it shows the ladies are interested in the political questions of the day. I am not going to detain you with a speech, for I know you are all anxious to hear Mr. Whitney. I think this is the first time in the history of the province of Ontario that a premier has opened his campaign in Hamilton, and I am satisfied Hamilton appreciates that honor. You will be interested in what Mr. Whitney will tell you, for he will deal with the important questions that have been taken up by the government during the past three years. It is a history which any government might be proud of, and merits the just reward of a continuance of the confidence of the people, and in my mind there is no doubt that Mr. Whitney will be returned to power by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Whitney can say that every pre-election promise made by him has been carried out, a statement that few governments have been able to make. In conclusion let me thank you for the way you have turned out to welcome the premier."

## HON. J. P. WHITNEY

### Received With Tumultuous Applause By Immense Concourse

Chairman Milne briefly introduced Hon. J. P. Whitney, who was received with cheers and thunderous applause. He said:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the city of Hamilton: It was with peculiar pleasure that the members of the government of Ontario decided, when they set about making up their minds as to how and where to

facilitate the campaign—as it is called—in other words, going before the people to give an account of the stewardship of the government—I say it was with peculiar pleasure that we decided to come to the city of Hamilton. Now there is more than one reason, ladies and gentlemen, why such a pleasure should accrue to us under these circumstances. I will mention one or two of them. We all know the importance of Hamilton as an industrial center. We all know that the people of Hamilton, owing to the interests which they have, owing to their active business life, owing to the knowledge which is cast abroad among them with reference to all business matters and with reference to all business enterprises, take a widespread interest in all public measures and questions which interest the people of this province as a whole, and therefore for that reason, if for no other, it would be entirely fitting, eminently fitting if I might so say, that the opening gun, so to speak, should be fired in this fine city of Hamilton. (Applause.) Now there is another reason, ladies and gentlemen. I was glad to come again to the city which sent to the legislature such talented and creditable representatives as Henry Carscallen, who is no longer with us, who left his mark in the legislature as he did in the city of Hamilton, whose political and public life showed that there were very few situations which he would have been unable to fill, and I was glad also to come to the city which has given to the government the great measure of aid and assistance which I am glad to say in your presence has been given to the government, as a member, by the Hon. John S. Hendrie. (Applause.) It has been said by a prominent English statesman, years ago, when he was appointed on the formation of a government to the position of chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, which is not supposed to have any duties attached to it, and which, as a matter of fact, I believe has no technical duties attached to it whatever—he said: 'Why, I am put there because they want me to be the hardest worked man in the government. I will have to take everybody's work when he goes away and I will just be a kind of a drudge.' Now, there is a great deal in that, and the appointment of a member of the government as a minister without portfolio is very far from saying that he, as a minister, has nothing to do. And I am glad to come here on this platform and be able to thank, from the bottom

of my heart, and on behalf of my colleagues, the people of Hamilton for giving us a particular and full illustration of the ability, and industry, and practical wisdom of Mr. Hendrie, which has served us so well and which we expect to serve us so well in the future. I cannot open the proceedings of this campaign, either, without saying a word as to the serious loss which we have sustained in the death of the lamented Dr. Willoughby, who was one of our colleagues—a man who was widely known throughout the province, whose warmth of heart and generosity of disposition endeared him to everybody with whom he came in contact, whose advice and suggestion were a source of satisfaction and help to his colleagues from time to time, and whose loss will be mourned not only where he is individually known, but where his services to his party and the country were known also and thoroughly appreciated.

#### PRE-ELECTION PROMISES

"Now, then, ladies and gentlemen, what have we come here for to-night? It seems to me that we have come—at any rate—the members of the cabinet—to give an account of our stewardship, so to speak—to say a few words with reference to the questions which were before the public three and a half years ago, and to the promises which were made by the government, and as to the manner in which the promises have been fulfilled, if they have been fulfilled. Before I sit down I propose to deal very briefly with the very little weak criticism which has been bestowed upon us by the opposition—small in quantity whatever it may be in character, because of the fact, as I assume it, that they had no material on which to base any stronger criticism. Now, then, what was promised by the party which asked the people three and a half years ago to consult their self-respect and change the government in the province of Ontario? Now, we promised a number of things, and the question to-night is this: Did we promise at that time to give what is known as a square deal to the people of the province of Ontario? (Voices, Yes.) If we did make such a promise have we given the people of Ontario a square deal? (Voices, Yes.) If we have, what reason is there to prevent the people of Ontario from giving us a square deal? (Applause.)

#### WHAT WAS PROMISED

"Now, sir, I must go rapidly over these points, because there are a great



many of them. We promised a number of things. We promised to stop the sale of pulpwood and timber in private by the minister of crown lands, and to have that sale always by competition by public auction. We promised to create some new agricultural schools sooner or later. We did not promise to do that immediately, but we have been able to create a number of them. We promised to reconstruct the financial resources of the University of Toronto, that great institution maintained by the people of Ontario. We promised new mining laws. We promised to bring a cabinet minister from New Ontario, who would be, from the nature of his experience there, fairly well qualified, the best qualified indeed of any man in the country, to deal with those great and immense interests and resources of the province in that direction. We promised to change the county council's act and bring it back to the same position in which it used to be. We promised to do away with the grants to railways. We promised to cheapen school books and to break up the school book ring. We promised honest enforcement of the license law. We promised to put the provincial finances on a sound footing. We promised law reform. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. It is with pride and satisfaction that I am here to-night to tell you that we have done every one of these things that we promised, except to deal with the question of law reform, and we have laid a foundation for that reform which will be carried out in the next session of the legislature.

#### OPPOSITION CRITICISM

"Now, then, I do not want to deal with this slight criticism at any length, but I will just say a few words with reference to it here. We have had very little criticism heretofore. For two or three years the Globe newspaper, which represents one of the great political parties in this country—and it is to the interest of everybody in this province, Conservative or Reformer, that the great organs of the political parties should criticise the government in a proper, reasonable and fair manner, and it seems to me that for a few years the Globe did conduct itself fairly well—for the Globe, that is. (Laughter.) Whether it did so from an innate conviction of the propriety of its doing so, or whether it did so because it had no raw material from which to form any criticism, I am not pre-

pared to say just now, but it did; and then you will have noticed that within the past two or three weeks it concluded not merely to stop over, but to boil over. I will tell you the reason. There are two reasons. One is the absence of raw material, and the other is that for the last month or so there has been, day after day and week after week, a steady procession of all the hangers-on and crooks that were attached to the late government passing up the stairway of the Globe office and denouncing the Globe because it did not denounce the Whitney government strong enough. And, at last, the Globe gave way. Even the editor of the Globe gave way, and consequently you have seen the exhibition which the Globe has afforded to the people of this country for the past ten days or two weeks. We cannot be very bad after all, when the Rev. James A. Macdonald, editor of the Globe, and Robert Jaffray, president of the Globe company, are both office holders of the Ontario government. Mr. Macdonald was appointed by the Ontario government one of the board of governors of Toronto university, and the president of the Globe company, the Hon. Robert Jaffray, was and is a member of the Niagara Falls park commission. They are officeholders of the Ontario government, and if we were so very bad they would not stay and defile themselves, for long, at any rate, as the servants and hirelings of such a government as the Globe newspaper would have us appear to be.

#### OPPOSITION WAS WEAK.

"Now, as far as the opposition in the house is concerned, we have no opposition. That is a strong statement. I should have said, I meant to have said, we had no opposition during the last session, because I want to say with reference to previous sessions there was opposition, but there was practically no opposition in the last session. The present leader of the opposition said in the course of the debates on the address to the crown that instead of making a criticism of the acts of the government his first duty there was to attack the government. Well, now, he makes statements on the platform in one place to-day with reference to one or two subjects or public questions and he goes to another meeting the following day and makes a different statement; and if you watch the newspapers you will see that he makes a great fuss

about Toronto university. I have come to the conclusion, and I would not make this statement without believing it, that he desires to injure and punish Toronto university. He desires to destroy it if he possibly can. He has, at any rate, thus far done considerable damage, and I have reason to believe that the editor of the Globe, as a member of the board of governors, disapproves of what Mr. MacKay says with reference to the university, and still he will publish these diatribes against the university. He disapproves of the attitude that Mr. MacKay takes with reference to that institution while, ladies and gentlemen, every item of expenditure in connection with that university down to fifteen cents, is published every year and there is a copy of that report lying on my table now. The university is managed just in the same way as the Niagara Falls park is managed—by a commission which was created by the late government.

#### RESPECTS TO OLD GOVERNMENT.

"I have not much to say concerning the proceedings of the late government. One reason is that I have much more agreeable subjects to speak upon to-night, and the other reason is that for several years previous to its dissolution that government was employed from the necessities of the case from the position in which it found itself, not in framing and considering legislation for the benefit of the people of the province, but in framing and devising ways and means, crooked or straight, by which they could be kept in power. Now that is not an unfair statement. The government, even if they had a desire to do right, having a desire also to remain in power even at all costs and all hazards, had no opportunity to do any of these good things and had to confine their efforts to staying in power. Now, sir, the leader of the opposition was in the old government for only a few months, and I make the prophecy here now that we will all be a good deal older than we are before the people of Ontario will accept as a leader of the government of this province a man who was a member of the Ross government during the last period of its existence. Now I shall have to hurry over some of these points, but I should like to deal with a few of the questions that suggest

themselves to you, I am sure, as they do to me, as being pertinent, having regard to the attitude of the government of this province.

#### FINANCES OF PROVINCE

"Now let me commence by dealing with the finances of the province. Some years ago I used this language—that the financial position of the province is the key to the situation, and that with her extensive resources the problem of the provincial finances could be easily solved, leaving a way clear for such increased expenditure on agriculture and education as might be thought necessary and desirable, and this result could be arrived at without periodically selling timber lands, or in other words the capital stock, to cover an anticipated deficit, caused by an excessive and unnatural expenditure of annual revenue. Now, then, that was the position which I took, and when I said that the finances were the key to the situation I did not need to go into any explanation, because you all understand the people of Hamilton particularly understand without any explanation, that unless the financial position is assured you must just do nothing and sit down and twiddle your thumbs and only wish you were in a position to do these good things. Well, now, it is a singular thing that under the Ross administration the debt increased without any corresponding increase in the revenue. Mr. Ross said, in his speech on the 24th of March, 1894, in dealing with the financial difficulties of the province, 'The normal revenue of the province is about a million short of the expenditure.' Well now, we shall see how far Mr. Ross was right. In 1891, the expenditure was \$3,229,000. In 1904 it had more than doubled. Now I am not one of those who say that as far as the province is concerned the expenditure should not increase if the revenue increases, and there are objects on which expenditure could be made with advantage. Now you will observe this change: there has been a steady increase in the revenue under our auspices. The total revenue of the province has increased from about four and a half millions in round figures in 1904 to over eight million dollars in 1907. Yet Mr. Ross said in March, 1904, that the normal revenue was about a million less than the expenditure, and here we have to-day an

expenditure over eight millions and a large surplus besides. Now, let us see what the increases in the revenue are, and if you will bear with me I propose to give you some items that will be of interest to you.

#### INCREASED REVENUE

"The Dominion subsidy in 1904 amounted to \$1,339,000. In 1907 it was \$1,735,000. I haven't time to-night to go into any exhaustive explanation as to the methods by which we succeeded in getting this increased subsidy from the Dominion. The receipts from crown lands in 1904 were \$2,731,000. In 1907 they were \$3,063,000. The receipts from licenses in 1904 were \$362,000. In 1907 they were \$587,000. The receipts from the provincial secretary's department in 1904 were \$102,000. In 1907 they were \$257,000. The revenue from public institutions in 1904 was \$110,000. In 1907 it was \$266,000. The tax on corporations and railways in 1904 were \$420,000. In 1907 they were \$673,000. Our succession duties in 1904 amounted to \$458,000. In 1907 they were \$821,000. The casual revenue in 1904 was \$177,000. In 1907 it was \$154,000.

"Observe now, ladies and gentlemen, that under every item or source of revenue of the province in every one of these years the revenue has increased by leaps and bounds under our management—the revenue that Mr. Ross said was in a normal condition one million dollars short of the annual normal expenditure.

#### WHERE MONEY WENT

"Now, then, the next question is, and I would not be surprised if some of you asked the question, What has been done with all this money—what have you done with all this money which has been entrusted to your hands and which you have increased in volume and quantity as the trustees of the province? Let us hear to what uses this money has been put. Well, now, I am going to give you a few instances. In 1904 the expenditure on hospitals and charities, an expenditure that no one will object to, amounted to \$226,000. In 1908 it was \$349,000, an increase of \$122,000, and the railway taxation doubled in amount to what it was under the Ross government. The railways have paid into the provincial treasurer in two years \$164,000, and a large portion of it, one-half, I think, has been paid to the different municipalities, and this year's financial state-

ment will show the increased amounts paid to the municipalities, from double the amount of taxation which has been taken from the railroads.

"Now, then, take the expenditure on agriculture. And then take the expenditure on agriculture and colonisation roads. I will lump them together for my present purpose and deal with them separately later on. The expenditure on agriculture and colonisation in 1904 amounted to \$622,000; in 1908 it is \$1,021,000. The minister has expended this increased amount day by day on various useful purposes, and among these is the establishment of colonisation roads in the newer sections of this country.

#### EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

"Now, then, take the great institution of education, and this is a question on which the residents of Hamilton and the people of every part of the province alike are interested or ought to be—a question which I throughout the province declared to be a first great question to be dealt with as soon as the finances of the province were put upon a proper footing to enable us to deal with it. Now, the expenditure on education in 1904 was \$949,000; in 1908 it will be \$1,600,000. Now, this is only one more of the illustrations which I could give you as to the methods and manner by which we have carried out the promises we have made, and as to the remarkable and largely increased expenditure for public purposes which we have incurred in the interests and for the welfare of the people of this province for education and for agriculture, and I say these are two subjects—I may call them twin subjects—that should first of all take the attention of the public man who is entrusted with ministerial rank in the province of Ontario. Now, then, let us see what has been the annual position financially during the past three years, and see how it bears out Mr. Ross' statement that the normal expenditure of the country was one million dollars in excess of the revenue. During each of those years there has been a large surplus in the treasury of Ontario, and it was a surplus that you could put your hands down into the treasury and feel. (Applause.) In 1905 the surplus was \$620,000; in 1906 the surplus was \$429,000; in 1907 it was \$606,000. In three years the surpluses aggregated \$1,655,000. We have paid out these increased allowances and in-

creased grants and expenditures on education and for other purposes—we have done all that, ladies and gentlemen, and yet in spite of Mr. Ross' words of doom, we have had annual surpluses aggregating \$1,655,000. Why, ladies and gentlemen, the tale I am telling you to-night is almost a fairy tale. It sounds like one, but, thank God, it is true.

"Now, sir, beyond that we did this: We had to raise a loan of \$8,000,000 for the Temiskaming railway. What did we do? Did we send over to England or New York? Did we telegraph across as Mr. Harcourt did about his proposal for a sale of bonds belonging to the Ontario government, offering the sum of \$25,000 as a commission? No, ladies and gentlemen. The provincial treasurer—and I am sorry that he is not here to-night, so that I might be able to testify to the great value of his services to the people of this province—the provincial treasurer advertised in certain newspapers that he wanted to sell three million dollars of bonds of the province of Ontario. He paid \$1,300 or \$1,900 for the advertisements, and that was all that the whole loan cost. And the best of it is yet to come. The farmers and the lawyers and the bankers and the mechanics of the province of Ontario walked up in bunches of two and three to the parliament buildings in Toronto and bought these bonds from the provincial treasurer. And I say this—and I am in your judgment as to whether I am right or wrong—that if we had done nothing else but that one thing we had deserved well of the people of the province of Ontario.

"Now, sir, what else have we done? We have \$2,837,000 of cash on call that we have advanced to the government railway, the T. and N.O. railway, which will come back into our pockets at any time we ask for it. Now that is the financial position of the province of Ontario, and I say I would not be astonished if people who heard of this situation unexpectedly were to say it was a fairy tale, indeed. It may be, but it is a true tale, and it is one of which we are proud, and which we are thankful to believe that the people of Ontario are also proud. The record, then, is that we wiped out any deficit, that we increased the grant to education by \$650,000 per annum, that we increased the grant to agriculture, that we increased the grant to hospitals and charities, and we have devoted this great sum from railways to municipali-

ties and we have this handsome surplus. I think you will agree with me that we have reason to feel particularly well satisfied with the situation of the financial position of the province.

#### EDUCATIONAL POLICY

"Now then with regard to education. We promised that we would increase the support to our common schools, in which 95 per cent of the children of this province get their education. Mr. Ross used to say that the public school was a stepping stone to the high school, the high school a stepping stone to the college, and the college a stepping stone to the university. It was in this way that the system of education was to be made complete. Now, then, my position when in opposition was quite the opposite of this. I contended that the public schools should not be the stepping stone or the doormat to anything else—the public schools, where 95 per cent of the children of our people were obliged to get what education they ever got—I contended that the public school should be made a substantive, independent, self-centered institution, a school in which the children of the artisan or mechanic or laborer and the farmers of the province should be enabled to acquire the greatest possible amount of useful information instead of being merely a stepping stone in a system leading to something else; that the public schools should not be merely a place where a child should spend a large portion of his time in preparing himself to go to a higher institution where he could never go. That was the difference. (Applause.) And so the first thing we did was to increase the means of providing for the salaries of the teachers. In 1904 we paid for this purpose \$358,000, while in 1907 it was about \$1,096,000, being an increase of \$738,000. Then also we established a consultative, advisory board, which would take up and deal with questions of every kind relating to education, embracing representatives of the teachers of the different institutions of the province—the different schools—and also of the trustees. We have helped the rural schools to the extent of \$60,000 or \$80,000. The grant to Toronto university has been increased from \$143,000 to \$342,000, which is taken from the succession duties. We have also increased the continuation class grants, and then we have done this: We have broken up the school book ring. We have issued school books for children at a much lower rate than

before. This arrangement will last until the new books which are necessary are created, and it is possible that all the provinces will join, and what a splendid thing it would be, ladies and gentlemen, if the provinces all should join in having a similar system of school books! We have lowered the price so that a set of public school books which formerly cost \$1.30 now cost 49 cents. (Applause.) Then take the agricultural college, over which my friend Mr. Monteith, the minister of agriculture, presides. The attendance at this college has very greatly increased, so that now there are no fewer than 1,077 pupils. Some of you will remember that some years ago I alluded to the fact that in Germany there were a great many small agricultural schools scattered all over the country, and in Austria-Hungary alone there were no fewer than between 75 and 100. We have made a beginning in that direction. It is only a beginning, but already we have six agricultural schools in various parts of the province.

#### QUESTION OF PRISON LABOR

"Now, then, another question—the question of prison labor and the Central prison. We have done this. After considerable work and trouble, we have brought about a state of affairs which when carried to a conclusion will close the bar and lock the door forever in Ontario on anything like prison labor. (Applause.) There are some little matters in the way of repairs which the prisoners are allowed to attend to, and we propose very shortly to try an experiment, the foundation for which has been thoroughly well laid by Mr. Hanna, the provincial secretary and some other gentlemen, who have been associated with him. We propose to take up in detail the question of endeavoring to utilize our prison labor as will do away entirely with the previous state which caused trouble and anxiety and annoyance to a deserving class in this country. That is done now, and I have no doubt whatever that the scheme we will adopt will work successfully, as all our schemes have worked so far.

#### RAILWAY BOARD

"Now, then, the next question is the railway and municipal board. A board of three members has been appointed. Legislation has been passed giving this board power to enforce agreements between railways and municipalities. During the last session we

added to its powers by giving it, I think, the most important jurisdiction of the kind yet granted. In other words, the board is empowered to pronounce upon the validity of municipal by-laws regarding municipal debentures.

#### LICENSE LAWS ENFORCEMENT

"Now, with regard to our enforcement of the license law, let me say that in 1904 we got \$228,000 from licenses. In 1907 this amount was increased to \$389,000. Now we declared that we would enforce the provisions of the license law without fear or favor, and we have done it. (Applause.) We have been criticized for doing what we have done. We have been criticized for not doing things which we did not do. And we are not surprised at that, because everybody understands that this is the most difficult part of any government's duty to carry on and administer the license law of the province. To show you what condition the licenses were in in some of the larger centers of the province, just let me read a few lines from the first commission that was appointed by us in the city of Toronto. Col. Davidson said: 'We found an absolutely rascally condition. Some of the hotels were not fit for human beings to live in.' Another commissioner, Lillechamp, said: 'I do not know how to express the filthy and abominable condition in which some of these hotels were found.' Now this is the way some of the hotels in Ontario were managed under the former government, and right under the nose of the provincial secretary himself in Queen's park. The condition of some of the hotels was simply horrible. Now, it isn't so today, and if any one here or elsewhere would say it is, and say it loud, we will take him along and prove to him that it isn't so.

"Now, we have reduced the number of licenses. I have not the figures before me, but we have reduced the licenses to quite an extent within three years. And then, as to the enforcing of the law, let me give you the names of some of the gentlemen who have declared that our action with regard to enforcement has been good: George F. Marter, late leader of the Conservative party of Ontario; Joseph Gibson, president of the Ontario alliance; Dr. C. V. Emory, Dominion secretary of the Royal Templars. Now, all these authorities declare that we have enforced the license law.



## LOCAL OPTION

"Now, let me say something about local option. That is a question there is a good deal said about in these days everywhere. The leader of the opposition, I notice, says very little about it. (Laughter.) That is a strange thing. Mr. Lucas, during the last session of the legislature, drew the attention of the leader of the opposition to the fact that he had not declared himself in relation to local option and the advisability of it, and strange to say—though not strange from our point of view—the leader of the opposition, when asked by Mr. Lucas to take some kind of a stand on the question, positively and specifically declined to do so. He said that local option was a question of circumstance and other things—that we were to be governed entirely by local conditions. He said not a word to show whether he was opposed to local option or in favor of local option. Now, then, when we went into power the law said the people could not get a vote on local option if the municipal council were opposed to it. We altered the law so that wherever 25 per cent of the electors desire a vote, no council can prevent the taking of that vote. Besides that, we did this on the ground that we required a three-fifths majority of the people who voted on local option. Another thing we have done is this—we have arranged that wherever the people vote for a local option by-law and carry it by a three-fifths majority, no tuppenny-hapenny technicality shall be allowed to set aside the people's will. (Applause.) So that to-morrow if a by-law is passed, and if it contains some little error, it is just as good as if it was a gilt-edged by-law.

### THE THREE-FIFTHS CLAUSE

"Now, then, as to the three-fifths majority requirement. We have received a great deal of criticism about the three-fifths clause. It has been called un-British, un-American, and all sorts of things. This is the kind of language used towards us by people who perhaps have never entered upon any serious examination of the facts. I will tell you one or two things in regard to the three-fifths. It is a strange thing that under certain municipal by-laws for the imposition of taxation a majority vote is not allowed to govern. Why? Because many of the people who vote have no interest in prop-

erty, and the property has to pay the taxes. And that is a common-sense reason. It is a strange thing that in two or three, at any rate, of the leading churches of this country the majority vote does not govern in certain matters of internal economy. I do not know why, except it is for the same reason, a reason that everybody understands, namely, that we want a positive, strong, unquestionable expression of the voice of the people who vote. Well, now, let me say something else about the three-fifths. I could quote the utterances of leading clergymen and leading newspapers, but I am not going to take the time. Let us see how it is in England. There never was a suggestion of any description leading to local option introduced in the British parliament which provided for a decision by a majority vote, and yet they tell us that three-fifths majority is anti-British. I could quote to you the utterances of Sir William Harcourt, one of the members of Mr. Gladstone's cabinet, on this point, in which he said that the local veto measure he was about to introduce must be passed, if passed at all, on the basis of a two-thirds majority at the polls. Let us see how it is in the British colonies. In New South Wales a three-fifths vote is required to pass a law and three-fifths to repeal it. In West Australia a majority of all the voters on the list is required. In New Zealand three-fifths is required. In Queensland two-thirds is required, and yet we are told that this three-fifths requirement is un-British. We believe that the results of this requirement have been unmistakably good, and we are endorsed in that by a great many people who perhaps do not care to come out publicly and say so. When the time comes that we see that it is necessary to make any change in the license law, any change that will have the effect of restricting the traffic in intoxicating drink and of minimizing or diminishing the evils of that traffic—such a change will be made.

### THE POWER QUESTION

"Now, I am pretty nearly through. I have to say something now in regard to the power question. This is a question in which the people in Hamilton are thoroughly interested. Now you know that almost the whole of Niagara power was given away by the late government. That is an old story.

But I cannot resist telling you this—from the first session of the legislature when we came into power, and this question was being discussed in the house, we found that the last horsepower they had at Niagara Falls was being contracted for by one of those syndicates or combinations. When it came up for the consideration of the government we were thankful to find that it could not be carried out without the government ratifying it. The government refused to ratify it in any other way than that which would leave 125,000 horsepower over there as a sort of nest-egg. (Applause.) Well, when that took place, a relative of mine was in the gallery talking with a gentleman, and this gentleman said—a gentleman who was interested in this combination at Niagara Falls—he said: 'This action of the government is keeping \$20,000 out of my pocket, but it is right.' And that was the justification we had, than which there could not be greater, coming from a man whose financial interest lay in having this last bargain carried out and the last group of horsepower handed over to private individuals.

'Now, it would be a long story indeed to go over the whole power question. In fact, that one question would taken an hour and a half alone. But I will tell you this. In all our dealings in this power question we did all that was in our power to give the Electrical Development company, which was a Canadian company, a chance to proceed with its work. (Applause.) Over and over again, after we had received rebuff after rebuff, we turned back to this Canadian company, and did what we could to get it a share of this business. We do not deserve any credit for this. But when the tender of the Ontario Power company was for \$10.40 in Toronto and \$10 per horsepower at Niagara Falls, and the tender of the Canadian company was \$12, we had no right to do anything but to take the lowest tender, and we did accept the lowest tender. Then what did we do? In order to befriend this Canadian company, we succeeded in inducing the Ontario Power company to consent that all the territory in Ontario east of a line drawn from somewhere near here to Collingwood should be at the disposal of the Electrical Development company, a Canadian company, and they declined that, and

then we told them we had done all that we could do, and would stand by our guns and carry out our contract with the Ontario Power company, and we are going to do so. And we have got so far along with it that the matters will soon be in the hands of the Hydro-Electric commission, of which Mr. Hendrie is a member. So that as far as human efforts can go, we have carried out our purpose, and we have arrived at a situation with regard to it upon which criticism will be in vain, because we have carried out what we said we would carry out. And, remember this, ladies and gentlemen, it was a great experiment. The inventions and changes in appliances and machinery connected with an electrical plant are so rapid—they are following each other so fast, that what is up to date to-day will perhaps be fit for only the scrapheap in twelve months. It is a very difficult and very delicate matter. We have done the best we could, and we are now in a position to say we see the end of all our troubles and anxieties with regard to this great question.

"I was glad to hear Mr. Milne refer to our action with regard to the water powers of this province. Seven or eight years ago the late lamented Mr. Miscampbell, from his seat in the opposition in the legislature, submitted a resolution declaring in favor of placing under the control of the government of Ontario all the waterpowers not already in the hands of private individuals. Throughout the length and breadth of the province our position on that question was made known, and it is gratifying to us to-day to find that events have borne out Mr. Miscampbell's attitude on this great question.

#### ABOUT CROWN LANDS

"Now I want to say a few words about mining and crown lands. For a number of years it was a burning question up in the northern part of Ontario where a settler taking up 160 acres of land found he could not touch the timber or touch the minerals. If he took a stick of pine he was liable to be brought before a magistrate and imprisoned. Well, under some circumstances, there was something to be said on both sides of the question, but it was seen that sooner or later a change must be brought about, and that the settler must be given a free hand if he went on to face these struggles of the possibilities and obstacles which

he found in his way in bringing about the advance of agriculture in that locality. And so at last we have changed the law so that in agricultural districts where the settler does take up land he can take the pine, he can take all the timber, and be entitled to the minerals as well. This is only one of the many steps which the government has taken from time to time with reference to our mining lands. And we have already commenced a forestry policy. We have begun to acquire tracts of land in different parts of the older sections of the province for the purpose of reforestation, and we have taken a vote for the purpose. As they stand these lands are not probably of very much value, but with tree growth and with the steps we are taking for the planting of seedlings of various kinds they will also become good for agricultural purposes.

#### MINING POLICY

"Now then, a couple of years ago there was great excitement regarding Cobalt mines. The government might perhaps have been excused if it had shown more or less hesitation in dealing with some of the questions which resulted from and were the outcome of that great discovery of valuable mines in the Cobalt district. So when it came about that a discovery was made on what was called the Gillies' limit we came to the conclusion, not hastily—for let me tell you that it was only after careful consideration we came to the conclusion, to hold the Gillies' limit as an asset and reserve for the people of Ontario, whose property it was. About \$100,000 worth of treasure has been taken out of the Gillies' mine, and yet it has not been fully explored, and when the time does come when the exploration shall be carried out more fully we have no doubt that the people will then even more emphatically, if possible, than now, endorse the action of the government in withholding from sale that great property one hundred square miles in extent and saving and holding it for the benefit of the people of the province. I shall show you another land transaction before I sit down. I shall show you the great advantage to the people in a financial sense of being kept in connection with these mines.

"There is no need of any comment on such a story as this, is there? It would be bringing coals to Newcastle, indeed, if we were to attempt to argue anything from this. The people of the

province I am sure will appreciate what we have done and what the future will bring forth as a result of our policy in conserving the resources of this province.

"You have heard a good deal about the settlement of the LeRose mine. You will hear people talk about that. Some of them do not know anything about it, and some know very little about it, while others do not care to know any more than they do. The facts are just these: Before the old government went out of power, two groups of men, one called the LeRose people and the other the O'Brien people, were trying for certain mining lands and they were both of them friends of the government. They had a lively time, and there were all sorts of things said about the description of evidence that each brought to show that the other was wrong. Finally, after a great deal of trouble and exertion, the late government came to a decision in favor of the O'Brien people. Well, we came into power and the LeRose people came to us and they said, 'We want the permission of the attorney-general to institute proceedings in this matter, and we will show that the O'Brien people had been guilty of subornation of perjury and all manner of fraud. Give us the opportunity and we will show this.' Well, this was brought to the attention of my honorable friend, Mr. Foy, the attorney-general, and Mr. Foy turned it over in his mind for a day or two, with the result that he said to himself, 'If this is true—if these people have done these things and committed all these crimes, and by means thereof have got hold of this property, the property belongs to the government. It should be taken away from them both, and nobody but the government ought to have it—neither Mr. LeRose nor anybody else.' So the following morning these two parties came to us again. Mr. Foy said, 'We will not grant you a flat, but I will bring an action in the name of the crown and we will see who the property really does belong to.' They went away to consider the matter, and there was some delay. Before the matter came to trial, the O'Brien people gave way, and they said to the government, 'We will make a reasonable settlement with you now.' They offered to give the government 25 per cent of the profits of the mine at the mouth of the mine—on the surface of the ground—and I would rather have that than have the whole mine. Now, then, the



LeRose people said that they had been at considerable expense in showing that the O'Brien people had got the mine improperly, at least some settlement should be made with us. So we paid them \$30,000—their actual outlay—and promised a percentage of what we got out of the deal, which so far has amounted to about \$240,000 a year.

#### N. O. RAILWAY BONDS

"Now I want to speak to you about another question, and it will be the last. It is a question on which we expect to receive the unquestioned authority and endorsement and approval of the people of Ontario as being one of the acts which will be distinctly for the great financial advantage of the province. Now, when you hear something about the guaranteeing of the bonds of the Northern Ontario railway, I want you to know we think that is a position regarding which I am not here to defend it; I am here to boast about it. (Applause.) I am here to look every reasonable man in the face and say you cannot claim that the government has done other than wisely in this matter. Now, I am going to show you why in a very few minutes. We have always been as a party, at least for the last seven or eight years, opposed to any further grants to railways or bonuses to railways or land grants, especially in old Ontario. And we are opposed to it now. (Applause.) And we are on record in the legislature. When the Ross government brought in a bill guaranteeing \$20,000 per mile on 268 miles of the Northern railway we put ourselves on record—we all voted against that, because it was contrary to our policy, and contrary to the policy which we believed would be in the interests of the people. Now, then, when we found two or three months ago that this railway on which the government had guaranteed the bonds to the amount of \$5,400,000—when we found that this railway was incomplete, we found that there were no terminals, without which the railway was useless—we said to ourselves, 'Well, if we have a mortgage on this railway and the terminals should be built with elevators and piers and all that, we will either have to let some other people endorse the bonds and get a mortgage on the terminals, in which case our security will be worth nothing, or we will have to guarantee the bonds, and that was what we did. We decided, after considering the matter, that we would guarantee bonds for the expenditure on the terminals and 65 per

cent of the expenditure in the future, the whole of the latter expenditure not to exceed \$1,500,000. The whole guarantee, under any circumstances, was not to be for more than \$2,500,000. Then we had to consider the question of the short line into Hutton Mine, which also had not been provided for. This was near North Bay, and it is the richest iron mine in Canada. I would rather have the railroad from Hutton Mine than all the rest of the enterprise put together. A short line also from the main line to Key Inlet on Georgian Bay had not been provided for. Now, this Key Inlet has a harbor from which the traffic of the great Northwest will take rail to the east. Consequently the government agreed to guarantee bonds for the construction of terminals at that harbor. It was not a grant or guarantee for a speculative enterprise. It was simply a business transaction between two parties who came together in a business way. We found that the credit of the road without these additions would be practically valueless, and the steps we have taken have been for the purpose of rehabilitating and making certain the financial position. It is said that this matter was not brought before the legislature until the closing days of the session. Why, it was introduced on Thursday, between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the house was prorogued on Tuesday. Mr. MacKay, if he had wished, could have discussed it up to the present moment. But let us see. Mr. MacKay did not want to discuss it. On the 24th of April Mr. Pense, member of Kingston, and the financial critics of the opposition, said to a reporter that Mr. MacKay had decided not to offer any opposition to the measure, mainly because that the Liberals were committed by their previous guarantee, and that the present legislature was only carrying out the policy inaugurated by the Liberals. Yet after this Mr. MacKay goes on public platforms and denounces the steps taken by the government. We should always make allowances for parties in opposition. They are naturally inclined to go around with a million magnifying power microscope and find anything they can on which to fasten the fangs of criticism against the Ontario government. And so we must make allowances for them from time to time, even although it seems very difficult to do. But for Mr. MacKay to approve of our policy and then denounce it reminds me of the man who murdered his father and

mother and then claimed that he ought to get off because he was an orphan.

#### THE REDISTRIBUTION

"Another question is the redistribution of the constituencies. Now, ladies and gentlemen, if we had listened to what any reasonable man might have proposed and had changed the constituencies of this province in a reasonable way, we would have undone all the work of previous administrations in gerrymandering the constituencies. But we decided to wait until the next Dominion census before undertaking so extensive a work. We concluded to let these people stay in their constituencies until the year 1910, when the next Dominion census will be taken. Think of what the gerrymander of the former governments meant! Take the constituency of North Grey, represented by David Creighton, editor of the Empire. The Mowat government—because it was the Mowat government then—determined to gerrymander this constituency so as to drive Mr. Creighton out of public life. The first time they were unsuccessful, but the second time they succeeded. Isn't that a thing to be proud of? Well, Mr. Chairman, we have left Mr. MacKay there. We have left him with that ill-gotten constituency in his pocket. We were determined that we would avoid even the appearance of unfair play. (Applause.) But he isn't very thankful. And, you know, you remember hearing about the election in North Grey, when a Conservative candidate was declared elected, and when there was a recount before a judge there were four ballots with a pencil mark in the form of a little cross. I have in my desk at home a statutory declaration of four men, one of them a scrutineer who acted at the poll where these four ballots were cast, stating that when these ballots were counted there were no such marks on them, and they were put loosely into the ballot box and sent away, and when the ballot box was opened before the court, they were sealed up in an envelope. This is in the constituency of the leader of the opposition, and we have allowed them to retain it. We changed only a few constituencies. (Here Mr. Whitney gave figures to show the results of the Grit gerrymander in returning a majority of Liberal members to the legislature while the popular vote showed a Conservative majority throughout the province.)

#### QUESTION OF LAW REFORM

"With regard to law reform: It is a

great pity that legal expenses in this province are so great. The remedy is this: I know the lawyers won't like it, but I fancy many of you in this audience will not care about that. Our proposition introduced by the resolution offered by my friend, the attorney-general, is in the direction of allowing, after a fair trial, just one appeal.

"We have done all these things and we have done more, which I have not time to specify. I am prepared to say without any fear of successful contradiction that the legislation we have enacted and the proposals we have brought in to the house to be shortly enacted, are a greater result than all that was done by the old government during the entire thirty years of their incumbency.

#### HE WANTS THEM BOTH

"Just a word or two with regard to the local situation. I expect you to reelect Mr. Héndrie, and I am not going to waste any time on that, because I am strongly convinced that you will do your duty in that matter. I want you to elect Mr. Scott, who, I suppose, is now on the ocean, speeding here as fast as possible, to take a part in the great work of ratifying the proceedings of the government during the past three years. I hope there are some men here from north and south Wentworth. I hope there are men here who will go forward and do what they can for the election of my friend, Gordon C. Wilson, of the town of Dundas, and also for my friend, J. T. H. Regan, in South Wentworth. I believe if you do these things, you will do that which your conscience will approve of, and that which will cost you no uncertainty of thought or doubt as to your actions in respect to the time to come.

#### NOT HERE TO BRIBE

"Now, then, I'm not going away from here without saying something with regard to one question which has been under consideration here during the past year. It has been the method of the late government, especially during the last few years, to postpone bye-elections and general elections until they could contrive some way to deaden the consciences of the people in the different constituencies and offer them bribes. Now, I know what has been said here, and I know what will be said in regard to the prospect of Hamilton getting a technical institute. I am not here to promise anything to the city of Hamilton. What-

ever will be said of me after I leave office, it will not be said that I stood up and did not disdain to bribe a constituency. I, and the government of which I am the leader, may lose votes by it, but I will stand fast to it nevertheless. This government will do what is right and fair by the city of Hamilton—(applause)—and it will do it no matter whom you elect. (Applause.) Now, let there be no misunderstanding as to the position of the Ontario government in this respect. The Ontario government will not say this at the bidding of their opponents who would like to put them in a corner. The Ontario government will endeavor in the light that God has given them to do their duty and do it fairly. They may fall sometimes, because they are mortals, but I can tell you this, they will continue to try to do their duty. Therefore I say that the city of Hamilton will be dealt with properly and fairly by this government, and it will be dealt with if you elect two Grits just the same.

#### PREMIER'S CLOSING REMARKS

"Now, when we came into office we were new at it. We were what would be called in common parlance green. I have been, of course, twice asked to take office in the late government, but I did not take it, and I lost the experience, but I gained in wisdom. We did the best we could for a while without experience, and we were pretty well satisfied with the result. It is a matter, I may tell you, ladies and gentlemen, of very great satisfaction to find that besides having pleased our friends we have pleased our political opponents. Now, that doesn't mean that we are infallible by any means, but we think that if our opponents would try to legislate for you, they would do much worse. It is a great satisfaction to be able to feel that we have pleased political opponents as well as political friends. Now, then, we say, ladies and gentlemen, that we have fulfilled our promises, and we ask you to pronounce judgment upon that. We ask you to judge us by the standard that we ourselves set up. We think we have given the people of the province a square deal; and, if so, we think the people of the province ought to give us a square deal. We believe the people of the province of Ontario will not do us an injustice if they give us a square deal, and another opportunity to show what we can do."

## THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Hon. J. J. Foy Followed Premier With a Happy Speech

Hon. J. J. Foy, at the conclusion of Premier Whitney's speech, said a few words. He explained he would not attempt to discuss any of the questions that he had mapped out in his mind to refer to before he heard the premier's address, for he would be a very bold man indeed who would undertake to elucidate or enlarge on any of the subjects that Mr. Whitney had so thoroughly gone into. Absolutely there was nothing more to be said. A gentleman on the platform had whispered to him that the only thing left for him to talk about might be the Pawnbrokers' Act, but even that was taken away from him, for the premier had boasted that the government had redeemed all pledges. (Laughter.) Mr. Foy was pleased to see the enthusiasm that characterized the meeting. It was a happy omen for the opening of the campaign, and he hoped to see the same spirit shown in other places in the province. Hamilton had an especial reason for taking an interest in the record of the Whitney government, for it had sent to Mr. Whitney, in the person of the Hon. J. S. Hendrie, a man who by his wide experience and great ability had been of incalculable benefit to the cabinet. Mr. Foy thought there was no question about Mr. Hendrie being returned again, and he hoped they would elect both Mr. Hendrie and Mr. Scott with large majorities to show that the people of Hamilton were in line with the best thought and the best policy in the province. Many of the best men in the opposition were refusing to contest constituencies against Mr. Whitney, and the present was no time for the city of Hamilton to go back on Mr. Whitney. (Cries of "We won't.") Referring briefly to the Rose mine deal, Mr. Foy thought the greatest test of the wisdom of that agreement was that if it was to be done over again the government would do it. Personally, he would be glad every day in the week to close such a bargain.

### IS APPRECIATED

At the close of Mr. Foy's happy little speech Mayor Stewart read the following resolution, which was promptly carried:

"That this meeting records its appreciation of the honor conferred by the Hon. Mr. Whitney and the members of his cabinet in selecting the city of Hamilton for their declaration of government policy in again appealing to the electorate for an endorsement of that policy.

"It is very gratifying to those who have supported Mr. Whitney's government to have placed before them as we have had here to-night so lucidly the clean record of their administration of public affairs, which is in such marked contrast to the deplorable conditions prevailing at Ottawa, where every department of the government appears to be infected with the leprosy of graft.

"In conveying to Mr. Whitney the assurance of our confidence that the same rectitude which has characterised his first term as premier of Ontario will continue to be his ruling policy in the future, we are also convinced that his straightforward methods in the conduct of business is the lesson of a purer public life for Canada."

## THOSE PRESENT

### Many Prominent Men Occupied Seats on the Platform

Among those who occupied seats on the platform were: John E. Milne (chairman), Hon. J. P. Whitney, Hon. J. S. Hendrie, Hon. J. J. Foy, Hon. Dr. Pyne, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Hon. Nelson Monteith, Mayor Stewart, Ald. Farmer, Farrar, Howard, Sweeney, Allan, Wright, Clark, Nicholson, Bailey, George-Lynch Staunton, Col. Raymond (Welland), Murray Pettit (Winona), John Hoodless, J. W. Morden, H. R. Tallman, Martin Malone, E. Smith, Wm. Southam, H. Spencer Case, C. R. Smith, Thomas Ramsay, Lieut.-Col. Moore, Wm. Hendrie, George Hore, Chas. K. Milne, G. R. Stewart, John Hore, John Milne, A. W. Semmens, Geo. Precious, John B. dley, T. H. Pratt, Adam Clark, W. C. Duvall, John Askew, Henry New, John Farmer, Albert Pain, Geo. Holden, W. A. Spratt, D. A. Culp, H. H. Robertson, James Shoots, Lew F. Stephens, Wm. L. Ross, Wm. Armstrong, John Carroll, E. Ireland, W. B. Champ, A. L. Gartshore, W. H. Forster, F. H. Revell, W. M. Milne, F. W. Quinn, W. O. Menger, W. H. Judd, A. W. Peene, H. Dallyn, D'Arcy Mar-

tin, G. F. Giassco, Charles Dallyn, David Gillies, C. D. Blachford, R. R. Morgan, J. A. Bruce, F. C. Bruce, J. H. Hewson, W. J. Peppiatt, John Hall, C. H. Bampfyde, Major Tidswell, Col. H. C. Gwyn, G. C. Willson, Dr. James Anderson, G. H. Evans, C. R. McCullough, F. R. Close, Thomas Hobson, George R. Allan, Walter Anderson, T. H. Gould, George Wiids, J. M. Robinson, F. H. Lamb, John Freeth, Walder Parke, Theo. Coleman, Thos. W. Lester, Frank Robins, George Armstrong, W. J. Clark, Wm. Hipkins, L. Slaughter, O. Carscallen, Capt. Henderson, John Leggat, S. Howard, Robert New, Sackville Hill, W. J. Southam, G. R. Judd, Dr. D. G. Storms, W. J. Swanson, Lawrence Munro, Dr. Jas. Baugh, and many others.

The Conservative association executive was wise in providing an overflow meeting in the Conservative clubrooms. There were so many who were unable to get into the Savoy theater that many would have been disappointed had there been no other meeting to attend. The political meeting spirit was in the air—it affected everyone, and hundreds were glad of the chance to hear a prominent member of the cabinet speak at the Conservative clubrooms. Hon. W. J. Hanna, the provincial secretary, is one of the brightest minds in the legislature. He is likewise one of the best speakers.

It was with peculiar pleasure that the many members of the great Conservative party of Hamilton and many Reformers as well, took advantage of the chance to hear Hon. Mr. Hanna. There was not room for all in the Savoy, and those who could not get in there and who went to hear Hon. Mr. Hanna were treated to as fine a campaign speech as they could wish to hear. It lacked the authority that comes only with the utterance of the premier, of course, but Hon. Mr. Hanna convinced everyone that he was little short of his chief in ability to speak and present a clear case to an audience.

In the absence of Mayor Stewart, S. D. Biggar, K.C., occupied the chair. Mr. Biggar opened the meeting by referring to the presence of Hon. Mr. Hanna, who was to address the electors present. That the large crowd would be glad to hear so able a representative of the government he felt sure.

## MR. HANNA

### Provincial Secretary's Address Listen- ed To With Great Interest

Hon. Mr. Hanna was given an enthusiastic reception. In opening his address he said that perhaps he could not do better than to repeat what the premier had said in opening his speech at the other meeting a few moments previous. Mr. Whitney and his government expected re-election—it was to be hoped that it would be so. The wish came from the heart of himself, as well as from the hearts of all of his colleagues in the government, that every member should be re-elected at the provincial elections to be held on June 8. Mr. Whitney in his speech had made reference to the work done by the two members from Hamilton, since the results of the elections of 1905 had been made known, and it was found that the Conservatives were in power. Mr. Whitney had referred to the work of the West and East Hamilton members, particularly Hon. John S. Hendrie, who had become a member of the cabinet, and the late Mr. Carscallen. The latter was an exceptionally capable man. He remembered when he and Mr. Carscallen had in company occupied the platform from which he was speaking. It was an occasion not to be forgotten, that meeting about 1905, when the Conservatives were trying to get into power. The late Mr. Carscallen had the respect of men in public life, and he was a great credit to the constituency which had elected him. He was a great credit to the body of men at Toronto of which he was a part. Hon. Mr. Hanna was glad to be able to say that in honoring Mr. Carscallen East Hamilton had honored itself, and West Hamilton had done the same in regard to the election of Hon. John S. Hendrie, a member of the Whitney cabinet.

The provincial secretary said he greatly mistook the feeling of the electors in West Hamilton if they did not return Hon. Mr. Hendrie with an increased majority, and if West Hamilton did not repeat what it had done for its able representative at the last election.

#### CAMPAIGN OPENED

This, said he, was the opening of the campaign, as far as the government was concerned. The question at once

occurred, at such a meeting, and under such circumstances, when an appeal was being made to the people, What shall we talk about? The members of the government were too modest to boast about their virtues. The members of the government had no vices to answer for. Only in difficulty could they find reasonable excuse for occupying the platform! He was reduced to the necessity of traveling over the ground that had been traveled so often before; traveling over ground that was as familiar to the audience as to him. There was nothing before him, but to review with all becoming modesty that was his in great part, the things that had been done, the things that had been accomplished by the Whitney government since it went into power in 1905.

Colonel Hugh Clark had emphasized one point about the advent of the Conservatives to power in this fair province. He pointed out that it was a new experience for the Conservatives to be in power. He made it clear that the Whitney government at Toronto had been the first Conservative government in Ontario since Christopher Columbus had discovered America.

#### HE MADE PROMISES

Before Mr. Whitney was elected, he had said to the people of the province, "Elect me, and I will do so and so." He had pledged the Conservative party, of which he was the head, to an administration of business capacity, to an administration of honesty, to an administration that would have the law enforced. Mr. Whitney in opposition said these things; he promised good government. The Liberals had said that he could not make good if he was elected; that he had no men, and that the Conservatives had had no experience. It would be well to see how far the Conservative government, after a term of office, had made good; how far it had redeemed the pledges made while it was in opposition.

In doing that he was overlooking important history of the province, which was made immediately prior to 1905. Hon. Mr. Hanna said he did not want to review the occurrences of those few years. All thinking Liberals, all reasonable men, would agree with him that these were the blackest pages in the history of Ontario. They would be glad to turn them over, and go on. The rank and file of the Liberal party was not responsible in any way for what had happened. The rank and file of



the Liberal party was as anxious as the rank and file of the Conservative party for honest government; clean government that would respond to the will of the people. Even the leaders of the Liberal party, when they took the steps which ultimately led to the occurrences, little contemplated the conditions they were bringing about.

And how did these conditions come about? It would be a grand thing for the province if the black records could be wiped out, obliterated from the pages of history. If Premier Hardy had only resigned his office, when he had a majority of but one! If he had only been allowed to exercise his judgment, instead of being forced to bow to the will of the other members of the government! If he had not been overruled by his colleagues—if Hardy had had his way—these black pages of history would never have been written. Then came Premier Ross, as Mr. Hardy's successor. Liberals and Conservatives alike would say that it would be a grand thing if Mr. Ross had found that he ought to lay down the reins of office, when he had only one of a majority in the house. If he had dropped the reins, or handed them over to the Conservative leader to take up, and carry on the business of the province! Would that not have been a grand thing for the Liberal party, and the history of the province?

#### A DREADFUL TALE

What did it mean to the history of the province? What about the election trials that took place between 1893 and 1905? The electors of the province would have been spared that dreadful story of the things that disgraced the province! They would have been spared the disgraceful story of West Elgin and North Waterloo. These things would not have been affixed to the record of a political party.

Mr. Hanna referred to the bringing in of Hug-the-Machine Preston, and to what he tried to do in order to get a sufficient majority for the government to work with. The Grit government finally could not let go when it wanted to. And the final result of this sad beginning was the overthrow of the most corrupt administration Ontario had ever seen.

It was only right to ask the members of the government, those to whom the faith of the province had been pinned, those who were entrusted with the carrying on of the work of the province, how had they carried out their

promises. It was the duty of the government to give an accounting and to answer the rightful questions.

One of the pledges made by Mr. Whitney when in opposition was that he would, if elected, do away with the numbered ballot. Was there a Conservative in the province, was there any fair-minded man in the province, who would not say that it was a good thing? Before the Whitney government became an actuality there had been complaint made on every political platform at almost every meeting, about the numbered ballot, and the lack of the secrecy that was supposed to be the essential of a ballot. Mr. Whitney had said that he would do away with that numbered ballot. The first act of the government at the first session of the legislature was to fulfil that pledge, to do away with that numbered ballot. (Applause.) Had Mr. Whitney redeemed that pledge? He surely had.

#### ENFORCING THE LAW

Another promise that Mr. Whitney had made to the people of Ontario when he was still in opposition was that if he were elected he would see that the law was enforced. And that was a Whitney promise—the kind that were worth their weight in gold. If the Ross government had enforced the law as Mr. Whitney said he would do, and had done, there would have been no election scandals.

Hon. Mr. Hanna recalled an instance where the late Hon. J. W. St. John stood up in the house at Toronto and charged the Ross government with allowing open violation of the law. Mr. St. John had told about a bucket shop in West Toronto junction that drained the pockets, sapped the morals, of the young men of Toronto \$65 days in every year. The attorney-general of the Ross government said that the province was helpless, that this bucket shop had a Dominion charter of some fishing or sporting character, and that a great constitutional question was involved. The complaint was repeated as to Fort Erie, Windsor, with the same answer. Finally, the attorney-general instructed a lawyer to start proceedings to determine what this great constitutional question was, a suit which would be decided when his grandchildren were men and women.

But in the meantime came the change of government in 1906. The premier was himself attorney-general for a time. One day a couple of cabs containing detectives started out from

the parliament buildings and surrounded the bucket shops. One hundred and forty-seven young men were taken, along with paraphernalia, etc., in this bucket shop. The men in charge were fined the limit of the law, and the bucket shops in Toronto, Fort Erie and Windsor were wiped out. There was no wide-open shop, in defiance of the law. The great constitutional question remained unsettled. (Applause.)

#### CLEAN ELECTIONS NOW

It was of great importance, this law enforcement! Had Mr. Whitney enforced the law? The election frauds, the switching of ballots that occurred in the numerous bye-elections prior to 1905, would not have happened had the law been enforced. Had Mr. Whitney done it? Had he made good his pledge in this particular?

If in doubt, Mr. Hanna wanted to refer the doubtful one to numerous instances where offenders were serving in jail. He invited the audience to look at London, to the trials there, where scores of men, one after the other, swore to having received \$10 after \$10 for their votes to elect a minister of the crown. Four business men of London, who were big in a business way, and socially, men who were honest and honorable in their business—four men who had been educated in that school of politics where there is no law to punish crime if it is in the interest of the reigning political party, were wondering in suspense what would happen to them. Ask any of these four if the Whitney government had kept its pre-election promises!

Had this policy borne fruit? What was the answer? There had been seven or eight bye-elections since, in close constituencies. In Kingston there was a close fight. The result might go either way. The majority was only 22. Yet no newspaper, or public man, of any importance, had charged that there was a single corrupt act in the election. It was a remarkable state of affairs. In all the three and a half years the Conservatives had been in power not a single newspaper of any standing, and no one in authority, had suggested that the government or anyone else had resorted to improper methods to secure any results not otherwise to be obtained. (Cheers.) Had not those present mighty good reason to be proud that they were Conservatives?

As a result of the enforcement of the law in election cases, the election work was now free from the stain put on it through the labor of the Ross government agents. There was proper enforcement. People now did not dare to attempt such tactics again. (Cheers.)

#### THE LIQUOR LAWS

How about the administration of the liquor license law? Mr. Whitney had promised to see that it would be enforced. He had made no false promises. In his famous speech on the referendum he had come out flatly with a statement as to where he stood. If he had kept silent, he might have got the vote of both sides, but he preferred honesty and openness. What then could be said of the enforcement of the liquor license law? Had Mr. Whitney made good? Mr. Whitney was not extreme, one way or the other. He said that there was a great deal to be gained by the liquor license law, if properly administered.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said he would not go into detail, because that was his department. He would leave it to the various church bodies around the country. He would leave it to the resolutions they had passed, to the Methodist conference, expressing its gratification and thankfulness to the government at Toronto for the enforcement of the law. He would leave it to the Baptist associations, to the Presbyterian assemblies, to the Anglicans, to the letters from scores of Catholic priests, all the same in tone. The license holders themselves said that never in the history of the trade had they so appreciated the importance of themselves of a good enforcement of the law. They hoped by observing the law to escape what would otherwise surely overtake them. Hon. Mr. Hanna said that he would leave it to all these, and everyone would have to admit that the liquor license law had been fairly enforced.

#### PRISON LABOR QUESTIONS

Then as to prison labor. That was another question included in his department. For many years there had been objection to prison labor competing in open market with free labor's products. Hon. Mr. Hendrie, in his campaign in 1905, had made a fight on this question, on the proposition that all such prison goods should be marked "prison made." The government

promised to adopt this, if no more suitable way could be found as a solution. Yet if the goods were marked, it must mean that they would be cheaper than regular products. It would mean that they would either be cheaper and find a wider market, or there would be no market at all. If it was a bigger market, that was no remedy at all. If there was no market, it simply meant that other fields of labor must be found for the prisoners.

It occurred to the government that perhaps it could be arranged that the prisoners could be employed on a farm, raising produce for their own support, to the profit of themselves and the province. (Applause.) Many of the prisoners in Central prison were not bad fellows. They were first offenders, men who had been drinking, got into a fight, a brawl, or done some minor thing under evil influences. Eighty per cent of them could be trusted to take a chance. There would be no stripes, no handcuffs, no cropped heads. They would be given a chance to keep their self-respect. They would be given another chance. (Cheers.)

On a farm of 400 acres they would be given intelligent employment. They could not be put into competition with free labor, and they would be given a chance to get away from evil associations. It was not a matter of politics. Both sides wish the movement God-speed. Many of those in Central prison came from the western part of Ontario. The district around Fort William, Port Arthur, Kenora, sent 100 out of the 400 prisoners. It meant a big expense, and so it was proposed to have a branch of the institution in the northern country. Up there were roads to make, at which white labor refused to work. Eighty per cent of the prisoners could safely be taken out, and with a promise of some months off their sentence they could be made to do good work in the open, away from stripes, handcuffs and cropped heads. It was quite true that all criminals were not in prison, and not all prisoners were criminals, and so these fellows should be given this chance to be men. The prisoners were not of the penitentiary variety. There had been \$20,000 set apart for it would, the plan would be carried to completion.

#### REFORMATORY GIRLS

Hon. Mr. Hanna told of the government plan for dealing with the Mercer

reformatory girls. There were 76 in the institution—a bright, healthy lot. They had minds, and hearts, and souls, as well as other people, and it was a shame to keep them locked up behind steel bars. The cost of the maintenance for girls was \$400 per year, and under the old system, after they got through being cooped up, they were given a ticket and sent back to the environment that worked their ruin in the first place. Mr. Hanna referred to the good work done by Adam Brown in this connection, as well as by J. J. Kelso. He told of the experiment of taking 25 girls out of the prison, placing them in good homes in the province, and of how happy the girls were in these good homes. He told of how 25 more were taken out, until the reformatory officials were afraid they were going to lose their jobs. Finally only four were left, and then these were provided for, after they had pleaded hard for a chance. Since then 30 or 40 more had been taken care of in this way. Six or seven were married and lived now in decent homes. The success of this encouraged the government to go ahead with the Central prison scheme.

#### IMPROVEMENT IN ASYLUMS

Mr. Hanna, in conclusion, dealt with the asylums, which are also under his charge. He told of the high compliment paid by Dr. McFedren, of Toronto university, to the government, for its advances in the asylum treatment. Dr. McFedren was Scotch, Presbyterian and a Grit, and that made his commendation worth all the more. Mr. Hanna dealt briefly with the asylum arrangements, showing how, since the Whitney government's time, an advance in medical and scientific lines had been made in treating patients, how the government was arranging for a hospital for incipient cases, so that no man need have the stigma of insanity against him until he was really seriously insane. It was a great work, and the doctors themselves were the first ones to appreciate it. (Cheers.)

Dr. W. F. Langrill moved a vote of thanks to Hon. Mr. Hanna, corroborating what had been said about the value of the treatment of the insane patients, and Charles Peebles seconded the motion. It was carried enthusiastically, and then the meeting adjourned.



