THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN.

A REFORM OVATION.

HAMILTON'S GRAND RECEPTION OF THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO.

A SPLENDID TRIBUTE TO FAIR, HONEST AND LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

A MOST ENTHUSIASTIC AND SATISFACTORY MEETING.

Magnificent Speeches by Hon. Oliver Mowat, Hon. Arthur S. Hardy and H. MacMahon, Esq., Q.C.

THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE RECEIVES A ROUSING ENDORSATION—HIS ELECTION ON THE 5TH OF JUNE ASSURED.

The Proceedings at the Palace.

On Friday evening the members of the Young Men's Liberal Association assembled at their Rooms on King street west, and, headed by the splendid Band of the 13th Battalion, proceeded to the Royal Hotel to meet the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier of Ontario; Hon. A. S. Hardy, Provincial Secretary; and Hugh MacMahon, Esq., Q.C., who arrived in the evening, to deliver addresses in defence of the policy of the Mowat Government, and in support of the candidature of Mr. J. M. Gibson.

The hon. gentlemen and Mr. MacMahon were received at the G. W. R. depot (on the arrival of the train from Toronto) by W. E. Sanford, Esq., J. M. Gibson, Esq., and others, and driven to the Royal Hotel. On Merrick street a grand procession was formed, the band leading, followed by the members of the Young Men's Liberal Association on foot, the distinguished guests in carriages, and other cabs and private carriages, filled with electors, bringing up the rear. The procession was certainly one of the largest and most respectable which has ever taken place in this city. On reaching the Crystal Palace grounds the Young Men's Liberal Association—one hundred and fifty of whose members turned out—opened their ranks and allowed the carriages with the distinguished visitors to pass through when such hearty and enthusiastic cheering greeted Mr. Mowat as has seldom been heard in Hamilton or elsewhere, let the occasion be what it may.

Notwithstanding that the hour for holding the meeting had not more than arrived, every available seat of the hundreds which had been arranged in the Palace was occupied, and hundreds more of the electors had taken up positions on the stairways, in the galleries and wings of the building. It was estimated that not less than five thousand people greeted Mr. Mowat with ringing cheers as he ascended the platform. Amongst those who had seats thereon besides the speakers of the evening there were W. E. Sanford, Esq., President; and J. C. McKeand, Esq., Secretary of the Reform Association, Senator Hope, Messrs. J. M. Gibson, D. Moore and Charles Magill. Occupying seats immediately in front of the platform were the members of the Executive Committee of the Reform Association. Among those present were A. T. Wood, E. Martin, Q.C., Ald. Kennedy, E. Irving, W. Copp, J. Stewart, Ald. Carscallen, ex Ald. Kelly, Ald. Doran, ex-Ald. Chisholm, J. I. Mackenzie, J. Eastwood, C. Donovan, A. Laidlaw, A. Sutherland, J. Moodie, W. P. Moore, Sheriff McKellar, John Harvey, J. W. Murton, W. R. McDonald, R. Brierley, J. W. P. Stewart, G. F. Jelfs, S. F. Lazier, and, in a word, a majority of the leading citizens of Hamilton. Several well-known clergymen and members of the medical and other learned professions also graced the occasion with their presence.

The chair was occupied by Mr. Sanford, Mr. McKeand officiating as Secretary. Quiet having been restored somewhat after the tumultuous reception accorded the visitors,

THE CHAIRMAN stated he observed the first item on the programme was a speech from himself, but as most of the audience were aware, he had just returned from Manitoba, and if he did speak, it would be about town lots, railway reserves, immigration schemes, etc.—(laughter)—but he felt that no speech was required at his hands, especially as they were about to have the privilege of hearing the Premier of Ontario and one of the members of his Cabinet speak on the issues of the day. (Hear, hear and cheers.) He would first introduce to the meeting Mr. Gibson, the Reform candidate, who, he was sure, would prove on the 5th prox. to be the people's candidate. (Cheers.)

MR. GIBSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Gibson, who was received with the greatest enthusiasm, said he proposed to consult the wishes of those present as well as his own inclination by not making a speech on this occasion. He thought it would be very indiscreet on his part to take up any time in addressing them when they had present the Honorable the Premier of Ontario, together with one of the other Ministers and other gentlemen from a distance, whom he believed they would listen to with more interest than to him. He felt gratified to have such a large audience present, composed of electors from every quarter of the City of Hamilton. (Applause.) He was sure he could confidently bespeak from the meeting that attention those who would follow him deserved at the hands of those present. (Hear, hear, and applause.) As the Reform nominee, he was gratified to be able to say that he was meeting with unexpected success in every quarter. The spirit in which he was received everywhere encouraged him to hope that the majority by which he would be returned would be larger than any previous Reform majority on any similar occasion. (Loud applause.) He did not go to the people of Hamilton and ask for their votes on false pretences; he asked them to support him because he thought the Reform Government deserved support. If he were elected, it would be his duty, as it would be his pleasure, to give them a firm and unwavering support. Without detaining them one moment longer, he would give way to those who would follow him, and he once more asked them to give the speakers their best attention, inasmuch as in a room so large there would be some difficulty experienced in hearing the speakers. (Tremendous applause.)

DEPUTATION FROM Y. M. L. A. AND ADDRESS.

THE CHAIRMAN—It is now my privilege and pleasure to introduce a deputation from the Young Men's Liberal Association, who will present an address to the Hon. Mr. Mowat, Premier of Ontario. (Cheers.)

Mr. G. F. JELFS then read the following address:

To the Hon. Oliver Mowat, M.P.P., Premier of the Province of Ontario:

We, the members of the Young Men's Liberal Association of Hamilton, have great pleasure in extending to you a hearty welcome on the occasion of this your visit to our city. We acknowledge with pride and satisfaction our entire approval of the course you have pursued as head of the Ontario Government, as being true to the best interests of the province, true to the spirit of honest and pure legislation, and true to the principles of Reform, which alone are adequate to promote and maintain the welfare of the country at large. The policy pursued by your Government in all matters coming under its cognizance has received the unqualified endorsation of all right-thinking and unprejudiced persons. It is unnecessary in this humble address to go into details. Ample proof of the foregoing statement will be found alone in the matter of education, which never met with greater attention, was never more equitably considered, irrespective of class or creed, and never received a greater impetus than under the present Reform Government of Ontario. In the matter of legislation and the administration of justice, for which Ontario pays not more than half of what this and other provinces paid under Conservative rule, while at the same time with less proportionate parliamentary and executive representation than any of the other provinces, it does its work with greater efficiency.

In pursuing this policy it will be seen by the real and practical decrease in the expenditure, without any injury whatever to the interests of the country, that it is not a Conservative but a Reform maxim that "economy is the means of salvation," especially when guided by intelligence, honesty and skill—all which have been manifested in the policy of the existing Government of Ontario.

Congratulating you on a successful Parliamentary career, we feel certain that we but echo the opinions of every lover of pure government in saying that your Ministry is entitled to the full confidence of the country, and to a sweeping and triumphant election.

We thank you for the distinguished honor you have done our city by coming to address us on the questions affecting our province, and feel sure that your statesmanlike course of action will commend itself to the minds of all who have the pleasure of listening to you.

Signed on behalf of the Young Men's Liberal Association,

S. F. LAZIER, President.
C. DONOVAN, 1st Vice-President.
J. A. MACKENZIE, 2nd Vice-President.
SC. CLAIR BALFOUR, Treasurer.
D. R. SPRINGER, Recording secretary.
G. F. JELFS, Corresponding Secretary.

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Mr. MOWAT, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, said—Mr. President and gentlemen of the Young Men's Liberal Club, I thank you very heartily for the address which you have just read to me. I thank you for the complimentary matter which it contains. I thank you for the approval which it expresses of the measures of the Government of Ontario. I thank you also for the congratulations which you offer to me, and the good wishes which you express. (Cheers.) I rejoice to know that the young men of this Liberal Club are taking an active and intelligent interest in the public affairs of the country. I congratulate my friend Mr. Gibson on the liberal assistance which he is receiving from you, and I would remind you that it is upon the young men of the country that our hopes for the future largely depend. (Hear, hear and cheers.) We are all interested in the prosperity of this land of ours; but you, young men, have more years to live than we older men have, and it is more your interest than ours, therefore, to see that it is well governed. There is no duty more incumbent upon us all than the rightful exercise of the franchise. (Cheers.) It is the franchise which distinguishes more than any thing else a free country from one that is not free. And it is our duty not only to exercise the franchise, but to take great pains that we exercise it rightly, and also to use all possible influences that we possess to the end that those views which we may entertain with regard to political matters may be successful and that our fellow-citizens may support those views of public policy which are in the interests of the country. I know that you, gentlemen, have been investigating these matters and that you have come to a right conclusion with reference to them (hear hear and cheers), and I look forward with hope to the service which you anticipate you render to the country. We are now moulding the character of this country. Its future in all respects largely depends upon what our young men, as well as every one else, may do now, and I have no doubt that good service will be rendered by you in the future as it has been rendered by you now in the support which you are giving to my friend, Mr. Gibson. (Loud cheering.)

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

THE CHAIRMAN—I will now call upon the gentleman who for seven years has so ably stood at the head of the Government of our Province of Ontario, and whose record in connection with our city has also been so pleasing and satisfactory. I now introduce the Hon. Mr. Mowat, the Premier, who will address you. (Enthusiastic and long continued cheering.)

Upon coming forward Mr. MOWAT was received by a storm of cheers again and again renewed. Silence having been obtained, he said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in having this opportunity afforded me of addressing the electors of the City of Hamilton. It is now upwards of twenty years since I had previously an opportunity of this kind. During that period very important political events have taken place. I do not propose upon this occasion to trace the history of those events, nor do I propose giving anything like an exhaustive statement in reference to these matters, which are not now of public interest. I have been speaking frequently during the last two days, and have now a physical difficulty in connection with my voice, which will prevent me, I am afraid, occupying your time as long as I would desire or referring to a number of matters of which I would be glad to speak. Being apprehensive that I may not be able to speak on all the subjects on which I would like to touch, I therefore purpose taking up a few of them as they may occur to my mind. There has just been read in your hearing an address presented to me by the Young Men's Liberal Club of Hamilton. That address expresses confidence in the Ministry of which I am the head, and the electors of Ontario are about to pronounce their opinion as to whether that confidence is entertained by them at large.

MR. MOWAT'S ADMINISTRATION OF AFFAIRS.

In order to form a judgment as to whether the people ought to have confidence in us, we have to consider what we have been doing during the last seven years and what we have omitted to do—what reason there may be why this confidence should be continued in us, and what reason there may be why it should be withheld from us. Perhaps it would be enough to consider the charges which our opponents make against us, and the reasons which they offer to the people why the confidence which has been reposed in us for the last eight years should now be withdrawn.

At this point a question was asked by a person in the outskirts of the crowd, but it was inaudible to those on the platform.

Mr. MOWAT—I have no objection to answer any question that may be put to me, if I am fortunate enough to hear it. Some questions have just now being asked which I have not heard, but I will do my best to make my statement without the assistance of questions when I cannot hear them. (Applause and laughter.) The great reason which is urged, why the people of Ontario should withdraw their confidence from us on this occasion is, that on the 17th of September last, the majority of them declared in favor of what is called

THE "NATIONAL POLICY,"

(hear, hear, and cheers), and it is urged that, having expressed that opinion then, they should vote against us now. I accept the compliment which is paid to the present Government in urging this as the prime reason why the confidence of the people should be withdrawn from us, because it shows that our opponents feel that they have no solid ground on which to object to the present Government. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) This shows that on all matters which ought to be taken into account, that they are very weak and they are afraid that the people will see and feel and pronounce that they are weak. Therefore it is that they ask you to bring in an element which ought not to be introduced here, and which ought to have no bearing on the matter which you are now about to decide. (Hear, hear.) The question of a "National Policy" is one with which the Provincial Legislature and the Provincial Government has nothing to do, and which they cannot influence in the slightest degree; and when you are asked to be influenced in casting your vote against us by something with which we have nothing to do and which we cannot affect in any way, it is quite plain that those who depend upon this means of obtaining support feel that there is no great reason why you should give the vote which they desire you to record. (Loud cheers.) We have no jurisdiction whatever over the tariff. We can neither put on nor take off duties. We cannot interfere in any way with the action of the Dominion Government nor with the action of the Dominion Parliament upon that subject. The Government at Ottawa has a majority of two or three to one, and if they cannot carry out their policy by such a majority, without any help from the Ontario Government, they must be a rotten Government indeed. (Roars of laughter and loud cheers.) The Dominion Government, as I have said, has a majority of from two or three to one in the House of Commons at Ottawa. They have a large majority from every province but one in the Dominion and they have that

MAJORITY SECURE FOR FIVE YEARS.

If with all that advantage, if with the advantage of that enormous superiority in numbers in the House of Commons—a superiority secured for five years—the "National Policy" would be endangered by the Ontario Government not being in political accord with the Administration at Ottawa, then there must be certainly something very wrong either about the Government at Ottawa or about the "National Policy." (Laughter and cheers.)

CANADIAN AND PROVINCIAL ISSUES.

The franchise is very valuable. It is that upon which our freedom rests; but it ought to be exercised, and to be a thing really valuable, it must be exercised intelligently. (Hear, hear.) Now, under our complicated system of government, we have issues of one kind to consider and to influence our votes when we have a Dominion election at hand, and we have other issues entirely different when we are on the eve of a Provincial election. If we have been doing our duty as Provincial Ministers, if our legislation has been right, if our administration of public affairs has been just and proper, then it is for the people of this province to declare their continued confidence in us, even though we may differ from some of them with reference to questions over which the Dominion Government alone has jurisdiction, and with which we have nothing to do. But, while it is perfectly absurd to say that you should be influenced in your minds by having voted against the Reform party on the 17th of September, there is just now

A VERY IMPORTANT REASON

why the Provincial Government should not belong to the same political party as the Government at Ottawa. (Hear, hear.) There are reasons in which all of you are interested—whether you are Conservatives or Reformers. Our system implies that there may be and ought to be friendly official relations between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, though they may not belong to the same party, and our experience hitherto has been that such relations may exist. When we have had a Dominion Government of the Conservative party, I found no difficulty in maintaining proper official relations with them. When Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie were in power at Ottawa, there were provinces in which their party was not in control of public affairs, but there was no difficulty experienced by them in maintaining friendly official relations with the latter. If all the provinces of the Dominion should always be in the hands of the same party as was supreme in Dominion politics, then I would despair of the success of our federal system. (Hear, hear.) It was framed and constituted upon the assumption that our Dominion matters were one thing and our Provincial matters another, and that there was no reason and no necessity why both should be administered by the same party. I have said, however, that whatever may be the general rule, and even supposing that it were not so clear as I have stated and as it really is, there is at this moment

A SPECIAL REASON

why all the people of this country, Conservatives and Reformers alike, should recognize the importance of the Government at Toronto having nothing to do with the political considerations which may influence the Government at Ottawa. We have lately had an important award made, which affects us more largely than perhaps any other transaction which we are likely to have for many years to come. The extent of our territory is a matter which has long been in dispute. Some of the questions involved in it have been in controversy for a century or two. It has been reserved, however, for the present Government of Ontario to deal finally with this question, which has been complicated and long the subject of dispute. We have dealt with it by having an arbitration appointed to consider it and by making an exhaustive collection of a vast body of materials necessary to be examined in order to ascertain what the extent of our territory really is. Finally, we have obtained an award by which the territory over which we have been previously exercising jurisdiction has been increased by the addition of another territory just as large. (Cheers.) So that, by means of this award, we have now an adjudicated right to twice the territory which we had when the Reform Government came into power. (Renewed cheering.) This province of ours in which we live, in which all our interests lie, to which we are all strongly attached, and for which we have such glorious hopes in the future, is now larger in extent than Great Britain and Ireland. It is nearly as large as the whole Republic of France, and it is capable of bearing and maintaining in comfort as large a population as either of these lands can do. (Applause.) Such a territory is not to be thrown away and it is

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM US

either against our will. (Loud cheers.) The award which gave it to us was made by arbitrators of the greatest ability and of the highest character. This award secured to us no more than our rights, and perhaps not all that we were strictly entitled to; but, at all events, it gave us all that our people desire, and as large a territory as we can usefully possess. In order to confirm this result, however, legislation was needed by your own Legislature at Toronto, and by the Parliament at Ottawa. We did legislate in this direction last session. We accepted the award. We passed the necessary law to confirm it, but the Government at Ottawa has failed to do its duty in the matter, and has neglected to recognize this award. It has not recognized this result either by passing the necessary Act to confirm it or by a letter, or by a word, intimating that they intended to do so. Are we going to suffer to the loss of that territory? (Voices—No, no!) Are we to have it taken from us? Are we to submit to any Government refusing to give effect to the rights of Ontario in regard to this very important matter? (Cheers.) Why was not this matter disposed of last session by the Dominion Administration? Why have they not distinctly recognized our right to the territory which the arbitrators have given to us?

I KNEW OF NO REASON.

I have heard no suggestion of a reason; no reason can be suggested in this relation—unless it is a political reason and political necessity. The influences of other provinces, the influence in some way or other of other provinces which may have an absurd jealousy of the power which such a large territory might bestow on the Province of Ontario in the future, may have led to this want of action. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that you should have a Government at Toronto that will not be influenced by the same political considerations as the Government at Ottawa. (Prolonged cheering.) You need in the interest of your own province, whether Conservatives or Reformers, to have a

GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL INSIST ON THE RIGHTS OF ONTARIO

being respected and preserved intact whatever political reasons another Government may have found for refusing to give effect to them. So far, therefore, at this moment from there being any reason whatever why the two Governments should be in "political accord," there is the strongest reason—there is a stronger reason probably than ever again may exist—why you should have a Government at Toronto that is not in "political accord" with the Administration at Ottawa. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Now that absurd position that the two Governments ought to be in "political accord" is the chief argument used with many electors to induce them to vote against us upon this occasion. But when you examine into the matter you find that the reason is entirely the other way. We should have many Conservatives, not otherwise with us, joining us on patriotic grounds upon this particular occasion. (Hear, hear.) Now we have had the confidence of the people of Ontario for the last seven or eight years. How is it we have had this confidence? What has led to our receiving this confidence in the marked way in which we have been bestowed upon us? I apprehend that it has been owing to various causes, and perhaps to none more than to this—that our people recognize in our legislation and administration of affairs that

WE HAVE BEEN A FAIR GOVERNMENT;

that we have been fair to all localities (hear, hear, and rounds of applause), to all parties, and to all creeds and classes too. (Renewed cheering.) Though we have had, under our system, to rely upon the support of one party, yet we have striven earnestly in all that we have done—whether in legislation, in the administration of public affairs, in disposing of great questions which our predecessors were unable to dispose of, and which they left to us to settle, and also in the management of the finances of the country—to take the greatest possible care to benefit our political opponents just as much as our political friends. (Hear, hear and applause.) Accordingly our laws have been doing justice exactly as much to the ungrateful Conservatives as to our friends, the Reformers. (Laughter and cheers.) We have for the last seven or eight years been doing good to these Conservatives

IN SPITE OF THEMSELVES

(renewed laughter), and we are going to continue to do them good in spite of themselves for four years more. (Loud cheering and laughter.) In our laws we have occupied the whole field of legislative jurisdiction which belongs to the province. We have passed laws reforming your municipal institutions and your educational institutions. We have reformed the laws relative to property and civil rights. We have reformed the laws relating to the administration of justice and every other subject over which we had any power, and we have done this so effectually, so carefully and so successfully that whilst we have passed hundreds of Acts, embracing every variety of important subjects, there is hardly one of them which has not received the approbation—I do not say of our own friends merely, I do not say of the majority of the people merely, but the approbation of the whole of the people in every part of the province and belonging to all parties and classes. (Loud applause.) If there is an Act or two in this number of important statutes to which occasional objection is taken here or there, it is of a very limited kind; even our political opponents are not united in objecting to any of them. What are they? Of all the vast number of laws that have been passed and of which you are now enjoying the benefit, what are those to which any objection whatever is made?

WE GAVE YOU THE INCOME FRANCHISE.

A few object to that. But whilst our friends are satisfied with it, a very large number of our opponents equally approve of this franchise. We have not taken away from anybody the right of voting which he possessed before, but we have added to the electorate a considerable number of persons who before had no votes. Our measure for that purpose was opposed by the Conservatives, but it was carried in spite of them, and now they declare that it has worked to their advantage and to our disadvantage. Assuming that to be a fact, you will find in this circumstance another illustration of how fairly we have acted, of how little we have thought of party advantage when we were advising measures for promoting the general good, and for doing justice to the various classes of the community. (Cheers.) A few object to what is called

THE FARMERS' SONS' FRANCHISE,

but there, also, the Conservatives claim that they have gained a greater advantage than we have. Our reason for granting this franchise was because we thought that it ought, in justice, to be given. You will observe that it is not every farmer's son who has the franchise bestowed upon him under our Act, but only those sons who are living with their fathers and assisting them in the management of the farm, and who are practically, though not legally, their partners. This affected a class of persons whose names were constantly found under the old system upon the assessment rolls and on the voters' lists, though they had no right to be there. Public sentiment was strong that young men so situated ought to have votes; some of them were voting in spite of the law. They were attached to the country, they had an interest in the soil, they were contemplating permanent residence here. They were well educated, they were intelligent persons, and there did seem to be no sufficient reason why the public sentiment on that subject should not be so far consulted that we should make legal what had been done before illegally. Now, we thereby added a considerable number of names to the voters' lists. The income franchise did not benefit the country at all. Seldom or ever was there found anybody who was entitled to vote on the ground of income franchise in the townships. There were not many in the villages, but there were some in the towns and more in the cities. The farmers' franchise was a subsequent Act, and in it we made provision for that class of persons to whom it referred in the rural parts of the country. This again was a measure, which, while our friends generally approved of it, our opponents are by no means united in objecting to it. On the contrary, I have no doubt that if on the point you could poll the Conservatives of the country, you would find that a very small proportion indeed would object to the farmers' sons having the franchise with the restriction under the circumstances for which our Act provided, and this therefore is another illustration of how fairly we have acted even in the most delicate parts of the legislation with which we have had to do.

THE GENERAL INCORPORATION ACT.

We also, amongst a multitude of Acts which we have passed for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the country, and the well-being of its people, have passed a General Incorporation Act, under which any one, any number of persons may become incorporated for any purpose that is not illegal. There has been one misapplication of that Act. An attempt has been made to render it the means of fastening strong odium upon myself and my colleagues. We passed this measure to make private Acts of Parliament for the incorporation of special bodies thereafter unnecessary. (Hear, hear.) There were great advantages attendant upon this course. A charter to incorporate under our General Act may be obtained at any time. You do not have to wait until Parliament meets for the purpose. It is secured by a very simple process which requires no lawyer's assistance and the whole expense of it is, I believe, about ten cents for fyling the document. (Laughter.) The machinery is as simple as it was possible for one to devise, so that there is no difficulty in the way of securing incorporation under its provisions.

THE ORANGE BODY.

There is a very important body in this country, whose leaders have endeavored to convince them that it is an unjust thing that they should not obtain incorporation by a Special Act of Parliament instead of becoming incorporated under this General Act. Well, we were bound to object to any special Acts after passing our General Act, or otherwise the General Act would be comparatively useless. Its effect has been that we have had from forty to fifty less statutes passed every session, than, but for this law, we would have had, and very important public bodies have from time to time been incorporated under the general laws which now exist for this purpose. I am sure that the Orangemen would not desire to be in a different position to others if their leaders were not misleading them about this matter. (Hear, hear.) I have no doubt that they fancy—they have not the slightest ground for such a fancy—that they are unjustly treated in this matter; while the fact is that no injustice is done them at all. This their leaders know; but they have political reasons for persuading the members of the body that they are treated unjustly, and in consequence of this attempt they have fastened odium on the present Government in connection with this subject.

A VOICE—Why did you vote for it?

Mr. MOWAT—I will just answer that question, because it shows the sort of talk by which friends like our friend who has just spoken have been misled in regard to this very matter. I voted for the incorporation of Orangemen when there was no general Act under which they could be incorporated. (Enthusiastic cheers.) Whether right or wrong, I did not see why Orangemen should not have the advantage of incorporation, and if the laws of the country enabled that to be done in no other way than by a special Act of Parliament, then, whether I was right or wrong, I thought that the Orangemen should have a special Act for the purpose, and I voted for it accordingly. We all know the excitement which always arose when an attempt was made to pass a Bill of this kind. The same excitement prevailed in the old Province of Canada, when I was a member of its Parliament, whenever the subject was brought up, and it was most desirable therefore that incorporation, when obtained, should be secured in such a way as would not involve this excitement, and as might be regarded without hostile feelings by any class of the community. When a general Act was passed with that view, and which enabled this to be done, then there was no longer even a justification for passing a private Act for the purpose. We have therefore since opposed the passage of a private Act for the incorporation of the body just as we would oppose private Acts for the incorporation of every other body, which can be as well incorporated under the General Act. That is my answer to my friend. (Loud cheers.)

THE SEPARATE SCHOOL ACT.

A VOICE—What about the Separate Schools?

Mr. MOWAT—Well, I may here say something on this subject since my friend is so very importunate and so very anxious for information. I dare say that he is going to become a Reformer and only wants a good reason for becoming one. (Laughter.) I can easily give him an answer. If all he desires is to make himself right and to have good reasons for becoming right, I can very easily furnish this reason. (Hear, hear and laughter.) We have made some amendments in the Separate School law—into which we have introduced some reforms—which were not objected to by the leaders of my friend and his associates in the House of Parliament at the time. Our amendments to which, I suppose, he makes some objection, were amendments to which his own leaders dare not object, and did not object when the Bill was before the House. (Cheers.) Surely he must see that there cannot be any very great objection to provisions to which his own leaders on the floor of the House made no objection. (Applause.)

CHARITABLE GRANTS.

I have been illustrating how fairly in all respects we have acted towards all parties and classes and creeds. Let me mention another illustration of the same thing. It has been customary, for many years before Confederation and since Confederation, to make grants to hospitals and charities out of the public funds, but there was no principle on which these grants were distributed. There was always a pressure for grants to new bodies, which had not previously been receiving such public aid. There was always a pressure likewise brought to bear for the increase of grants which had been previously bestowed. Well, we passed a general Act upon that subject, as we passed a general Act in regard to incorporations, because these general Acts are always safer than particular Acts. (Hear, hear.) They are apt to be far better considered, and there is apt to be far less wrong in them than sometimes these special Acts contain. Now, to illustrate this remark, let me go back again for a moment to the matter of the Orange Bills. The Orange Bill, as first introduced, contained a provision for the vesting of the whole property of all the lodges of the whole country in the Grand Lodge. I did think this was

A MOST OBJECTIONABLE THING.

I did think—though I did not feel it to be my duty to oppose the Bill on that ground when no general incorporating Act was in existence—that this was very objectionable. I thought that the leaders of the Orange body were misleading their followers and inducing them to insist upon that which they did not understand, or they would not themselves have supported this line of action after my Bill providing for the incorporation of the individual lodges was enacted, and that each lodge might hold its own property. The general Bill was therefore a far better Bill than the one which was introduced by the Orange leaders, and this Bill ought to have given far greater satisfaction to the individual lodges—when they come to understand it—than even the private and special Bill which they were asking the House to pass. This was also the case with regard to the charities. We were anxious to find some principle on which new bodies should be added to those which were in receipt of grants and upon which there should be increases made, when reason for such increase existed. Our Act made provision for this purpose, and from that time we have increased no grant to hospitals or charities except in the proportion of the amount of good done. (Cheers.) We have laid down certain rules which enable us to judge of the amount of work done and for providing for the inspection of these bodies with that view. I know that privately—not so much publicly as privately—we have been maligned because of this Act, inasmuch as hitherto it has happened that the larger amount of the increase has gone to one (hear, hear)—denomination of our people than to other denominations. It so happens that we have had a larger increase of work accomplished in their institutions than has been done in Protestant institutions, therefore we have been told that we are a priest-ridden Government because of this accidental result of a very good law. But we have acted fairly in this matter too. We have acted

WITHOUT REFERENCE TO CREED OR TO CLASS

in the matter, and if a Protestant institution shows that it has been doing more work it gets a larger grant, while if a Catholic institution shows that it has been doing more work it receives a larger grant (cheers), and I misunderstand the spirit of our people of all creeds and all classes if they will not recognize the justice of the principle which we have thus laid down, and on which we are acting, provided that they are made to understand the real character of this measure. They must be misled as to the course which we are taking, when they find in that course anything to condemn. Indeed so fairly have we been acting, and so entirely are we without reproach on the ground of unfairness or partiality, that I myself am charged in Toronto with being an enemy of the very city in which I live, in which nearly all my property is, and with which all my private interests are bound up. Of course I have not been an enemy to the city. I have been as true to Toronto as to Hamilton and every part of the country, whether east or west, north or south. (Loud cheers.) But because I have not done more for Toronto than I ought to have done, because I have not been unfair to the rest of the country, my opponents now are trying to make the people of Toronto believe that I have actually been hostile to that city. I think that I do not need clearer evidence to lay before the people of the whole community of the absolute fairness of the Government with which I have been connected than to show that we have so acted as to make it possible for the electors of the city in which I live and where my property is to have an argument of that kind addressed to them as a reason why I should be defeated there on the 5th of June next. (Renewed cheering.) I need not recount here the good things which Toronto has received from the Government, but I may remind you that

WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE CLAIMS OF HAMILTON

(applause)—just as we recognized the claims of every other part of the community having claims upon our consideration and have given due effect to them. We have recognized the importance of this city of yours; we recognize its importance from its convenient locality, from its magnificent harbor, and especially from the extraordinary enterprise and public spirit and energy and business ability which its people have always displayed. (applause.) How has our recognition manifested itself? Not by anything which I cannot defend everywhere—not by anything which I cannot defend either in Ottawa, or in Toronto, or in Barrie. But still by very important advantages, which a less fair Government might not have conferred upon you. (Hear, hear.) We have had for example but two institutions erected in our time. One of these was the Normal School at Ottawa, and the other was the Lunatic Asylum here. Therefore, we gave you one of the only two institutions which were built in our time. We have asked the Legislature to sanction our building here in Hamilton. (Cheers.) You know well that you are interested in railroads which run through various parts of the country to Hamilton, but what are really Hamilton roads, because it is your people who have projected them; your people that have advocated them, and to your people altogether that their existence is owing, and you know how much these roads of yours, from which you are going to derive a large prosperity, from which you are deriving great advantage at the present moment, have been aided by the Government, and how large the sums are which we have granted from the Provincial Treasury for this purpose. (Cheers.) Altogether it is

NOT MUCH LESS THAN $1,500,000

which we have given to these works, in which Hamilton is specially interested. (Renewed cheering.) Now, I merely allude to this matter for the purpose of further illustrating the fact that in all our acts, whether legal or administrative, we have done just what was right. We have not given you more than you ought to have; but we have given you all that you should have, and that is more than any of our predecessors did. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

THE SURPLUS.

A VOICE—What about the surplus?

Mr. MOWAT—I think that I hear some discontented friend amongst you calling out—"The surplus." Now there is no illustration that I could give which furnishes you more clear proof of what I have been pointing out than the very way in which we have distributed the surplus; because we did so on principles that were to apply everywhere. In proportion to the population of every municipality was to be the proportion of the surplus that the municipality was to receive; and accordingly we have given in the same proportion to the Tory municipalities and to the Reform municipalities, (hear, hear and laughter)—to those who politically did not deserve anything of us and to those who politically deserved everything of us. (Laughter and applause.) Early in the present controversy, having reference to the general election, it used to be said that the Government of Ontario ought not to be continued in office because they were not capable men, and that they were not equal to the duties which belonged to the offices they held. We have not heard much of this lately. (A laugh.) A very little discussion has made this statement appear so very absurd that even our absurdest opponents hardly ever venture on it now, because it was found that during our term of office we had to deal with several very important matters which ought to have been settled previously, which

OUR PREDECESSORS WERE AFRAID OR WERE UNABLE

to grapple with, and that we had disposed satisfactorily and in the public interest with every one of them. The Boundary Question is one of them, and there never was a more difficult matter than that before the Government, and very probably there never again will be. We disposed of it in a way so satisfactory that the Dominion Government, in the interests of the other provinces, seems unwilling to give effect to it. We also disposed, satisfactorily to all parties and to every portion of the province, of that great grievance which arose from the Confederation of the (hear, hear)—which was a grievance twenty-five years old, which was increasing every year and which our opponents ought to have disposed of long before our time, but which they did not dispose of—which they were unable or afraid to dispose of. (Hear, hear.) It was left for a Reform Government to settle this matter and we did it satisfactorily. So I might go on and point out to you the various important Acts of legislation which we have passed, and a good deal of what ought to have been anticipated long ago. Much of this was to supply wants which our people had long ago felt, but those who preceded us either did not see the evil or they did not see the remedy. They were either heedless as to providing the necessary remedy or were incapable of doing it. I could go on and give you numerous instances of the reforms which we have brought about, but you know something of them. The discussion of the absurd charge which I have mentioned has, as I have already stated, been lately abandoned, and the people of this country are pretty well satisfied that whatever the capacity of the present Government may or may not be, at all events there is not the slightest reason for supposing that equal capacity exists on the Opposition benches. (Laughing and cheers.)

OUR FINANCES.

I feel myself unable to proceed much longer, and yet I want to say something to you with regard to our finances, because at the present time, apart from the absurd ground given for voting against us, owing to the "National Policy," the great charge levelled against us is that we have not properly managed the expenditure, and that we have been employing the public money in an extravagant way. I dispute the pretension wholly and absolutely. I say that we have been employing the public money rightly. (Cheers.) We have expended the whole of it, of which we have made use, in the public interest, and we have been employing it all economically. Those who attack us in this matter are in the habit of pointing out how much money has been employed each year since the Reform Government came into office, and how much public money was expended when Sandfield Macdonald was Premier, but then you will easily see upon a little reflection how absurd that is, unless they go on and show what we have been employing the money for. (Hear, hear.) We have a reserve of two and a half millions of dollars. That was a surplus accumulated by Sandfield Macdonald, of from $4,000,000 to $5,000,000. But we could usefully employ in this country and for the

public advantage ten millions of dollars if we had it. We could advantageously make use of a revenue of five millions of dollars if we possessed it. The problem for us was this: we have a certain revenue; we have also a certain surplus; what is the best thing to be done with it? The mere fact that we have been spending more one year than during another year is no proof that we have spent it badly. You must show us in what the improper expenditure consisted.

CONSERVATIVES AS ECONOMISTS.

Conservatives have never been noted for spending little money. (Laughter.) Conservatives have never been remarkable for economy. I do not know a Conservative Government in any age or country which has had a character for economy—(laughter and applause)—and I have not heard our opponents suggesting any. (Laughter.) When I made the remark on one occasion some unsophisticated man in the crowd, a good Tory I have no doubt, called out "Sandfield Macdonald," so that the only case in which anybody has yet suggested that a Tory Government was economical was furnished by Sandfield Macdonald. But you all know, whatever may be said of Sandfield Macdonald, that he was no Tory. (Laughter.) There was no man who hated the Tories more than did Sandfield Macdonald. (Laughter.) There was no man between whom and the Tories there was a greater feeling of hostility during a very long parliamentary life than was the case between Sandfield Macdonald and the Tories. I dare say that some of you recollect his saying that Tories were so bad and such a dangerous class of men to have to do with, that he would not even accept a good measure at their hands. (Laughter.) That is going much farther than I would like to go. Even I am not such an anti-Tory as Sandfield Macdonald was. Sandfield Macdonald was an active Reformer from the time when he entered public life in 1840 or 1841, until, at all events, 1867, and during the whole of that time he was in active hostility to the Tories, and the Tories were in active hostility to him. He had some strong Reform principles, and he endeavored to give effect to some of them. When he joined the coalition in 1867 he was misled a good deal by his Tory associates on that occasion, or the people of this country would have continued their confidence in him. You see that there is no one who has yet been able to suggest a period in history, either in our own country or in any other, in which the Conservatives have proved to be an economical Government. In the old Province of Canada the expenditure increased largely from time to time. Not only was the whole of the revenue employed;

NOT ONLY WAS THE SURPLUS CONSUMED

—which Sir Francis Hincks had accumulated when Sir John Macdonald and Sir Allan MacNab came into office into 1854—but large debts were incurred. Money was also borrowed from time to time, though it was necessary for this purpose that there should be increased taxation. Taxes were accordingly repeatedly increased in order to provide a larger revenue and that more money might be expended.

A WORD OF ADVICE.

Now if any of you think that you are going to get economical government by putting the Tories in our places, you will be more deceived than even some of you think you were with respect to the "National Policy." (Laughter and cheers.)

WORKING UP "CRIES."

Last session, in order to make a little capital for the present elections, a number of motions were made which were supposed to be, or which pretended to be, motions for the purpose of promoting economy. The Opposition were wholly without a cry, they were wholly without a policy. They did not know what in the world they had to say to the people as a reason why they should withdraw their confidence from the Ontario Government and transfer it to the leaders of the Opposition. As a last desperate effort of a desperate party, they prepared these motions of pretended economy, and what were they? They were motions which pretended to deal with something like $80,000 of the $2,300,000 that we proposed to appropriate for the various public services during the succeeding year. We had revenue enough to meet all that we proposed to expend and employ. We were providing for an expenditure considerably less than took place during the previous year. The proposal was made by Mr. Meredith and his friends to reduce several of the items. What were the items which they proposed to reduce? One of them was for $50,000, which is always taken to cover outlays that may be required for various services beyond the sums estimated, and any unforeseen and unprovided for expenditures which necessarily arise in conducting the Government of a country. You can all understand, what every man of business knows, that, for the beginning of the year, he endeavors to estimate what he is going to require during the year—if in business, so much for various kinds of goods; and if not in business, so much for fuel, for cloth, for food, etc.—At the end of the year he will find, however carefully the estimate was made, that it does not quite correspond with the actual expenditure. On some items he may lay out less, and on others more. There will be some occasions for expenditure which he did not anticipate. Well, what it is in private affairs, so it is also in the government of the country; indeed, it is more apt to be the case with the government of the country than in the management of your own private affairs. Our expenditure annually amounts to something like two and a half million dollars, and you will not think it unreasonable if it should be found that something like $50,000 was needed for the purpose of covering such items as those to which I have reference. Sandfield Macdonald actually spent that sum during two years, though he did not take a vote for it.

THESE EXPENDITURES HAVE TO BE INCURRED

whether the money is voted or not. It was Mr. Blake who introduced into our system the practice of taking this vote. The previous Government were in the habit of spending more than the sum mentioned, when necessary, without taking a vote which authorized them to do so, and if you do not vote the $50,000 the result is that the expenditure will still take place, though there exists no vote to cover it. The pretence was made of reducing this vote from $50,000 to $20,000, but this would have been no saving at all. It was a mere pretence, a sham, a fraud on the public, to make them believe that $30,000 were to be saved, while in point of fact there would be no saving at all. (Cheers.) Another item was the reduction of certain salaries at the rate of ten per cent. of the amount. These were all minimum salaries. Most of them had been fixed six years before by the general consent of the whole House—of both sides of the House, with one or two exceptions. These officers had become during these six years far more efficient men; they were worth more money than they were in 1873. They had in the main been doing their duty very faithfully, and the larger proportion of them were no friends of ours. They had been appointed by our predecessors and by our opponents, with whom they were in sympathy. But we felt that it was not in the public interest that these minimum salaries should be further reduced, and that there was a much stronger argument for increasing than for diminishing them, though we did not propose to do so. You will understand the merits of the question better when I tell you that the salaries which we are paying are less than those that similar officers receive in Quebec, though that is a poorer province than ours, while they are very much less than those which similar officers are receiving at Ottawa. (Hear, hear.) We, therefore, felt it to be our duty to resist that proposal, and his motion for the reduction of salaries was a mere sham, as is plain from the fact that you cannot count upon the Conservatives making any reduction. They did not expect that the motion for reduction would be carried, nor did they desire it to be carried. This was clear for several reasons, and amongst others for this one, viz, the Conservatives are in power at Ottawa. I have already stated that the salaries paid there are larger than those which are paid by the Provincial Government, and besides there are far more officers receiving salaries at Ottawa, so that if the salaries there were reduced in the same way that our provincial opponents were pretending to desire, there would have been saved, not $19,000, but upwards of $200,000. (Cheers.) But no such motion was made there. The Conservatives were in power there, but they made no reduction at all. They only proposed a reduction when they knew that they had not the power to carry it and when it was in the public interest that the Government at Toronto should not consent to it. But they pretended to the people that they were economical when in point of fact they belong to the extravagant party, which always shows recklessness when in power and only pretends to economy when in opposition. (Applause.) Now, if the Government of Ottawa had reduced the salaries to such sums as our officers would be receiving under the terms of the motion of the Opposition, then it might be said that you could trust Conservatives to be more economical in this matter. But they have demonstrated the contrary by the course which they have taken, and it is even worse than I have described it to be, because our salaries are not paid by means of private taxation. If we had reserved these $19,000 what would have become of it? It would not have lightened your taxes one cent. It would have gone merely to swell the surplus and would amount to only

ONE CENT APIECE FOR EACH OF YOU

(laughter), so you would then have an interest in the surplus of one cent apiece more than is now the case, and this would be the only advantage which you would gain by it. Whether that is a very great advantage I leave you to judge. But in the case of the Government at Ottawa, the case would be entirely different because their public treasury is supplied by means of taxation, and every saving effected there in the expenditure enables a corresponding reduction to be made in the taxation. So that the amount is not only enormously larger—it is more than ten times as large—but also it is supplied from a source which would have enabled an actual relief in the burdens of the people to be effected if the reduction had been made at Ottawa. It is consequently perfectly plain that the motion was a mere pretence, a mere sham to deceive the people—there was no good ground upon which the Opposition could ask the people to displace us and put themselves in our places.

ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION.

There is a further illustration which I may give of the same matter. A friend has given me some figures, which I have no doubt are correct and which further illustrate the fact how little you can expect a Conservative Government to be more economical than we have been. Amongst the complaints that they pretend to make against us is the statement that we have too many sessional clerks. How does the Dominion Government, which is in the hands of Conservatives, stand in this particular? We find that last session they actually increased the number of sessional clerks from forty, for the previous session, to eighty. This is Conservative economy. (Laughter.) They also increased the number of messengers—how much do you think? From thirty, the number of the previous, to sixty-four last session. This is another instance of Conservative retrenchment (renewed laughter), and this is the sort of economy which you will have in case you displace us and put Mr. Meredith and his friends in our places. (Cheers.) Again, during the previous session twelve pages were employed in the House of Commons. Last session the number was twenty-three. This is another way in which the Conservatives show their ardent desire for economy. (Laughter.) In respect of these few items which I have mentioned there has been an actual increase instead of a decrease in the expenditure at Ottawa by the sum of upwards of $10,000.

IT WOULD BE THE SHEEREST FOLLY

on the part of ourselves or any people to suppose that we would be going to get a more economical Government by placing Conservatives where Reformers have been for the last seven years. (Loud cheers.) I had intended to compare the various items of expenditure in Sandfield Macdonald's last year, and in our last year for the purpose of showing you the real character of them, and that there is no want of economy though there has been a larger expenditure, but I find that I have not strength enough to go very fully into details. (Cries—Go on, go on.) Nevertheless let me mention one or two illustrations in this connection. The expenditure under the Supply Bill in 1878 was about $600,000 more than the corresponding expenditure in Sandfield Macdonald's last year. But then let me tell you that more than one half of that sum—upwards of $300,000—consists of the increased cost of maintaining our public institutions. Now, our opponents do not tell you that at all. They merely point out the increase without letting you know what has caused the increase. Why is there such an increase? The reason is, because we have a larger number of institutions now maintained, which Sandfield Macdonald did not have to maintain, and because we have also increased the accommodation in some of the old institutions, so that the number of the inmates is considerably larger. The true test is this: how stands the cost of maintaining our institutions, compared with such cost under other management or in other countries? The cost in Ontario is greatly less than in any of the corresponding American institutions of which we have any knowledge, and it is also less than Sandfield Macdonald's own expenditure upon similar institutions which he had under his charge; so that though our expenditure is so much larger, we have

ACTUALLY SHOWN MORE ECONOMY

in making this expenditure than Sandfield Macdonald. I find that it is quite impossible for me to address you any longer, and this is of less consequence, because there are others here who are well able to supply what information I do not furnish you on this occasion. I will myself only say, in a word, therefore, that, during the last seven years, my colleagues and I have been doing our best to advance your interests in the way of legislation, in the direction of the economical administration of public affairs, and in regard to the employment of your money to the best possible advantage; and I now rely upon you from this time until the 5th of June to do your best for me, and to return Mr. Gibson with a triumphant majority. (Cries of "We will!" and enthusiastic cheering repeated several times over.)

HON. MR. HARDY'S SPEECH.

After a few humorous remarks, the Chairman introduced Mr. Hardy, who was received with round after round of cheers.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said—I do not know that I have any aversion to honors and honorable titles and when my friend the Chairman introduces me as "Little Thunder," I feel bound not only to have the name—the empty title of a big chief—but to do some act that will warrant me in carrying the title given me. When I came to town this evening I was also greeted by a friend of Mr. Murray as "Little Thunder." I told him I did not like empty titles but that I expected to deserve the one he gave me, inasmuch as I hoped after the 5th of June to carry Mr. Murray's scalp at my belt at all events. (Hear, hear and laughter.) I see Mr. Murray has been having a friend from the West, Mr. Joseph Gibson, of Ingersoll. Being himself the ex-President of that large body, the licensed victuallers, he (Mr. Murray) thought he ought to import the President of the Temperance Convention of the West to help him. (Laughter.) I remember being last summer in the West when this Mr. Gibson was running against Colonel Skinner. On that occasion he especially proclaimed himself as the candidate of the temperance party. I believe Col. Skinner was not thought to be a temperance candidate. Mr. Joseph Gibson did preach very loudly indeed upon the sin of voting for a man who was not a temperance man. I was not a little surprised in hearing he was down here

LEADING THE FORLORN HOPE

in favor of Mr. Murray. (Laughter.) I believe that once in warmly advocating temperance this same Mr. Joseph Gibson cried that he wished he had the wings of an eagle to fly with all over this country. While making this remark, he was interrupted by a countryman of my own with the exclamation: "Well, if you had the wings of an eagle you would be shot for a goose before you could fly a mile." (Roars of laughter.) I was reminded of this story when I heard Mr. Gibson came down to bamboozle the reformed temperance men of Hamilton and make them believe Mr. Murray was the man they should have as their representative. I believe Mr. Murray is an esteemed citizen and is working very hardly. When his name was first mentioned the *Spectator* pronounced the race already won and said Mr. J. M. Gibson might go home to his virtuous couch—if he had a couch—for he was beaten before he started. (Laughter.) But I understand the blowing is not loud just now and that his Conservative friends are not so exalted in their views as they were on the occasion of Mr. Murray's nomination. (Laughter and cheers.)

AN ANECDOTE.

This reminds me of an anecdote told by a Mr. Wood of a man who then lived in Prince Edward County and was notorious for fast horses. Mr. Wood was himself very fond of fast horses and when driving in company with a friend when he met the gentleman alluded to, who at once challenged Mr. Wood for a race. He put his hands in his pockets and pulled out $25, saying he was prepared to back his horse against anything Mr. Wood had in the county. Said Mr. Wood: "The fact is as I have no fast horses just now, I don't think I can match you, but I have at home a steer—(laughter)—which I will match with $25 against your fast mare." The man had been talking very loud and Mr. Wood, thinking he was going to put back the money, said: "You are not going to put the money in your pocket." "Well," said he, "there's no telling how the darn'd steer might trot." (Great laughter.) The people of Hamilton think the man in the field as the Reform candidate is a very good trotter. (Loud applause.) I am pleased to be here and take part in

THIS MAGNIFICENT OVATION,

which is one the citizens of Hamilton should be proud of, and Mr. Gibson as well. I have never before had the honor of discussing the affairs of this province and that of the nation in presence of a Hamilton audience. You have placed in the hands of Mr. Gibson, an old friend of mine, the banner you expect him to carry. It will be borne in a fair fight and, I believe, to a victorious conclusion. (Hear, hear and applause.) I agree with Mr. MacMahon in describing Mr. Gibson as a man that will do credit to the City of Hamilton, a man of conciliatory manners, a man admirably adapted to fill any position, a man of cultured mind, and a man of the very stuff of which Cabinet Ministers ought to be made, although not always made of it. (Laughter.) I am not going in the presence of my leader to offer him any portfolio just now, as there is not a vacancy unless I retire myself, and I don't know that I am going to do so at the present time, (laughter), but I will say that as a man fit to occupy the position of a Cabinet Minister, we would only be doing justice to the Reform party and the public at large, by making Mr. Gibson one when there was opportunity. (Loud applause.) I would be trespassing on your endurance were I to

DISCUSS THOSE QUESTIONS THAT ARE AGITATING THE PUBLIC MIND

from one end of the province to the other. I find that very few of the Opposition are grappling with the great questions that have engaged the attention of the Government for the past few years. They have no policy to present to the people, but their one bald cry is, there has been an increase in the expenditure during the past seven years. Why should there not be an increase? I am proud of that increase. (Cheers.) It is not an increase the Mowat Government have attempted to cover up. It is part of their policy, a well-chosen policy, determined upon deliberately and one which can be defended. It is the increase of the people's money spent among the people by being given back to the people. (Hear, hear and applause.) I will not touch upon the legislative measures of the Mowat Government, because the hour is too late for that, but I claim that from the day Mr. Mowat had assumed the reins of power he has been constantly engaged in placing on the statute books some of the most beneficent Acts that have ever been passed in the history of any country. Whether he it before Reformers or Conservatives, I am able to establish any one of

THE THREE PROPOSITIONS,

viz., that Mr. Mowat had been constantly engaged in extending the liberties, in enlarging the rights, and in mitigating the burdens of the people. (Tremendous applause.) I can merely mention the fact that great acts of law reform have distinguished Mr. Mowat's Administration, and I may add just upon that point that in the time to come it will be said of Mr. Mowat, what can be said of no other legislator: he passed more great measures than any other of our legislators, not even excepting Robert Baldwin. (Enthusiastic applause.) In the future the name of Oliver Mowat will go down side by side with that of Robert Baldwin as one of the greatest law reformers in the history of this country. (Hear, hear and applause.) I admit the expenditure of the people's money has been increased, and am prepared to defend it. There is very little difficulty in showing how it can be defended. In comparing the expenditures of the province, the Opposition cunningly take the years 1871 and 1878. Why didn't they come down a little farther—to 1873? Because, as a matter of fact, there have been steady decreases since that year. The expenditure of 1873 was higher than that of any succeeding year, so that when they say that if we are to continue in power we will have direct taxation, they don't know what they are talking about. (Laughter.) Every year since 1873 we have had reductions, and there will be a greater reduction this year,

BY NEARLY A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS,

than in 1878. (Loud cheers.) But they cry "economize." Of course we can be economical; we are economical. I defy these gentlemen to come down to particulars. No matter what the Department or what the expenditure, I will undertake to justify every item. (Cheers.) What has the expenditure been incurred for? they ask. It is true, we have increased the outlay on the whole by $537,000 in seven years, but out of that $305,000 goes to increased public institutions, while improved educational facilities require $204,000 more than formerly. What becomes of the money? Does the Government expend it for their own purposes? Not a bit of it. It goes back to the people to mitigate their burdens. Had the Government not spent this money the people would have been taxed for it. I will undertake to say the people are prepared to justify every one of these expenditures, because for every dollar expended by the Government for education and other purposes the taxpayer is saved by so much in his taxes. It is a boon given to the people, saving them from direct taxation. What healthy idiot in the crowd would object to that? (Laughter and cheers.) I have heard politicians from the platform objecting to it, but I never saw a man get up in an audience and object to this relief of the people of their local burdens and the mitigating of the taxation which otherwise would have pressed upon them. (Applause.) It is the question on the one hand of hoarding up the people's money, or on the other of giving it back to them. That was a question Mr. Mowat speedily determined. Sandfield Macdonald hoarded up the money in the Loan and Banking Societies banks at four per cent, but when the people went to these institutions to

GET THEIR OWN MONEY

they had to pay eight, nine, ten, eleven and twelve per cent. (Loud cheers.) By a large majority in 1871 and 1875 the people pronounced in favor of an expenditure of the money among themselves; they sanctioned the policy Mr. Mowat had adopted, and, therefore, his Administration continued to follow it out. It was "stand still and stagnation" with Sandfield Macdonald, with Mr. Mowat it was "development and progress." (Cheers.) What we want is not to stand still, not to stagnate, but development and progress in opening up the country. To do this the expenditure must increase. It always does increase in young countries, Take Canada for an example, in 1854, when Sir John Macdonald entered the Government of the old Province of Canada, the expenditure was only $4,160,050 per annum. But it kept increasing at the rate of over a million a year until in nineteen years it had amounted to

TWENTY THREE AND A HALF MILLIONS

of dollars, yet I never heard a Conservative complain of that. (Loud laughter.) They cry out that there has been an increase in our case even when every dollar has gone back to the people and been expended by themselves. To show you our municipal expenditures has enlarged, I will take the following examples of how expenditures increased: Ancaster expended $5,845 in 1871 and $9,231 in 1878; Beverly, $5,000 in 1871, but $8,800 in 1878; Barton, $1,300 in 1871, $4,000 in 1878, or more than a hundred per cent.; Hamilton, $176,000 in 1871, $274,000, or nearly 100 per cent. increase in 1878. It will thus be seen that the Administration at Toronto were twice as economical as the people were. (Loud cheers.) The Government has been four times as economical as the people of Hamilton, and the city has been well ruled, chiefly by Reform Councils, I believe. (Laughter and applause.) Even in the little Conservative borough of London, which is Mr. Meredith's home, the expenditure in 1871 was $81,000, while in 1878, $171,000, or more than 100 per cent. Yet the Tory cry is "economy," "retrench." The Government has given back to the people $3,225,000, which money went direct to the city and other municipal Treasurers;

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SPEND A DOLLAR OF IT.

Senator Macpherson sticks that outlay on to make his deficits. The Government spent very little in matters pertaining to government proper. The Provincial Treasurer in his Budget speech showed that during the seven years the Mowat Government has been in power, out of a total outlay of $21,000,000, we have given back to the people no less than $17,500,000. (Tremendous cheering.) A large amount of that went to maintain our public institutions and pay for education and criminal administration. Of course we can retrench, withdraw the grant to education, legislation, asylums, etc. But would it be a wise retrenchment? —(Voice—No.)—Is that what Mr. Meredith should do, or any Government in the interest of the country? It is consummate folly to argue in favor of retrenchment when you throw upon the people their local burdens to be borne by direct taxation, while you pile their money up in vaults to rot. All told, between $8,000,000 and $9,000,000 have been spent in aiding railways, opening up colonization roads, building public institutions, etc., and after all there remains to the credit of the Government to-day no less than $4,235,000. (Great applause.) I think that a Government is bound to give back to the people their money or expend it to their best interests. Any Government that fails to do that fails in their primary duty. The general idea of the Mowat Government is to relieve the burdens of the people, to open up the country and expend the people's money in a wise and liberal manner. Mr. Meredith and his friends have no policy. I hold him responsible for not placing one at the disposal of the people, whose servants they are. Who can name a solitary public act of importance beyond the one introduced in his first session by Mr. Meredith, viz., the consolidation or a compilation from the English Wills Law? It was the duty of an Opposition to give their talents to the service of the people, but these have done nothing. Oh, yes they did. They held a number of caucuses and they framed a Bill and brought it up this last session. It was a Bill to destroy black knot in plum trees. (Loud laughter.) After they had labored for that Bill and brought their combined talents together to frame it, it was understood Hon. Mr. Wood should take it up at the second reading and put it into shape. This was done and it was allowed to pass its third reading. Mr. Meredith has perhaps a sort of policy, one he devoted his whole attention to during the late session—the decrease of the official salaries. He has no other policy. A wonderful policy! It amounted to ten per cent. off the salary where they found a Reformer holding a position, such as the Inspector of Division Courts, or the Secretary of Lieutenant-Governor. What was the total amount of all these days' and nights' work? It was the mountain labor which brought forth a mouse after all. (Laughter.) The clerks in my department are paid no more than those in building societies and banks. They wanted to reduce their salaries. Why one of these who is faithful and zealous, who has a wife and large family, who lost one of his children, had to come to me to borrow money to bury the child. (Sensation.) And yet he is an economical man. They have got to live in a particular way, and then salaries are not any higher than those in building societies and wholesale stores. The reduction proposed by the Opposition amounted to $13,500 out of $2,500,000 we were voting. That would amount to 13-17 of a cent for each of you. (Laughter.) Supposing Mr. Meredith by some chance gets into power and remains four years, and he reduces the salaries each of you

WILL BE RICHER BY THREE CENTS,

though it will be rolled up in the surplus. (Laughter.) Had you not better turn Mowat out and get your three cents. (Laughter.) I have not time to go into details on the general questions as the hour is very late, but I may ask who is there who does not recognize what the Reformers have done for the people of this country? Who granted all the liberal measures? Who severed Church and State, nay, who gave you civil and religious liberty in this country? The Reformers. (Cheers.) I ask you in this contest to rally around Mr. J. M. Gibson and see that when the sun goes down on the 5th of June the flag will wave high in a victorious breeze. (Prolonged and enthusiastic cheering.)

MR. HUGH MACMAHON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Hugh MacMahon, who was received with loud cheering, said he was sure that each and every one of those present must have regretted sincerely the substitution that had to be made in consequence of the indisposition of the Minister of Public Works, because he knew that to a certain extent many of his warm friends and ardent supporters in the City of Hamilton had crowded there that evening for the purpose of listening to the Hon. Mr. Fraser. He thought it was a little unfair to sandwich him in between two Ministers of the Crown. To follow the Hon. the Attorney General and then to be followed by the Provincial Secretary was a position he had hardly expected to fill. He came here because he felt an interest in the Reform candidate of this city, and he was always willing to give his assistance to a supporter of Mr. Mowat. He came for another reason—to know whether it was a fact that the people of the City of Hamilton were animated with the spirit of the old Reformers as in times gone by. He recognized among those before him and those behind him many who had fought the battles of Reform in this immediate locality. (Hear, hear.) The leader of the Opposition recently started out from Richmond Hill, instead of London, to go to the "enemy's country," but he is keeping at home now because he finds he will need all his powder stored between this and the 5th of June. (Cheers.)

A VOICE—We don't need him here.

Mr. MacM.—You will before this contest is over. (Hear, hear and laughter.) The speaker then went on to say that during his speech at Richmond Hill, Mr. Meredith wanted to know

WHERE ALL THE OLD REFORMERS WERE,

and spoke of Sandfield Macdonald as being one of those who had smelt the Reform powder, who had been in the din of battle, and he wanted the Reform party to point to the Reformers now fighting their battles. The Premier, Mr. Mowat, was a veteran in politics before Mr. Meredith had learnt the alphabet in connection with the science. (Hear, hear.) He was a veteran before Mr. Meredith had put on the swaddling clothes. He was sure they could not all be old Reformers. He was glad to see that in that assemblage he could recognize a good many of those who were taking part in the battle of Reform as being the young Reformers. They were putting on the mantle which those retiring from the field must give up, and in whose places were coming forward the men who were able and willing and determined to assume the responsibility which attached to them as independent electors in the Reform cause, and if Mr. Meredith wanted to see the smoke of the Reform battles he could not have done better than come to that hall. (Cheers.) Although it was asserted that he was not required here, he knows that in the City of Hamilton there is no possible chance of the Opposition candidate being elected. (Loud Cheers.) It was to him (the speaker) a wonderful sight to see the leader of the Opposition using so many panegyrics in regard to the late Hon. John S. Macdonald. The leader of the Opposition is known to be putting on Reform clothing for the purpose of edging into power. All the Conservatives care about pointing to is the record of John Sandfield Macdonald. It is the beginning and end of their speeches; they have got nothing to say of their own deeds. If they are asked why Sir John Macdonald gave $10,000 to Peter Mitchell's brother-in-law, the answer is, John Sandfield was an able man. (Laughter.) If asked why they superannuated Mr. Lesslie, they will tell you John Sandfield was an honest man. So he was. (Laughter.) If you tell them the present Government this year spent for sessional clerks in Ottawa $35,000, as against $23,000 by Mr. Mackenzie the previous year, they will tell you John Sandfield was a statesman. (Loud laughter.) There is not a platform where one of their speakers address an audience but they will tell what Sandfield Macdonald has been doing for this country. He was not going to say anything about the course Sandfield Macdonald pursued, as they all admitted his honesty; but where would they go among his followers and find this characteristic? He (the speaker) supported Sandfield Macdonald in 1867 when he came before the Upper Canadians in support of that Government, and if he had still pursued the same course he would have been his supporter to the present time.

THE LIFE OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

was at stake by an Act which Sandfield Macdonald undertook to pass through the House and did pass, providing for $1,500,000 being placed in the hands of the Government to be expended as they thought proper. He (the speaker) then thought it was about time he should be turned out. Then, in the City of Hamilton, because she did not send a representative to support his Government, he said he would make the grass grow on your streets.

A VOICE—He never said it.

Mr. MacMahon—Well, I like your veracity. If your principle is as good as your veracity I am sure you must be a credit to the community. (Loud laughter.) Mr. MacMahon then went on to say that the Hon. Sandfield Macdonald did not say this in London because they returned the Hon. John Carling there. But what did he say at Strathroy? When he got up to West Middlesex and when West Middlesex was not likely to return a supporter to the Assembly,

WHAT DID HE SAY TO THE PEOPLE OF STRATHROY

and coming from the Premier it just amounted to this: The Government have in their hands a million and a half of money, they have got it under their control; the Administration is dividing it as they think proper and until you send a supporter you need not expect anything. What did he say? He (the speaker) was not in the habit of using profane language, but the words used were: "What the h—ll has Strathroy done for me?" (Sensation.) It was that and that alone placed Sandfield Macdonald in the position he occupied in the Assembly. If he had adopted a statesman-like course and been prepared to expend that million and a half as the people's representatives desired he would have been in power to the day of his death. Against Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition, as a man, he (the speaker) had said nothing and did not intend to say anything on that occasion, but he might say, as they all no doubt were aware, Mr. Meredith was leader of the Opposition by accident. It was

ORDAINED BY THE U. E. CLUB—

that institution which says to one man go and he goeth; to another man come, and he cometh—that Mr. Morris should be leader of the Opposition. Mr. Morris, as the late Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba, came with a flourish of trumpets, and it was announced by the *Mail* he should be the leader if elected for East Toronto—a seat he will not be troubled with after the 5th of June. The Premier will take charge of that for him. (Laughter and cheers.) The best of all laid out schemes have to fail through occasionally, and what is the result? The result is, the man not destined for that position became leader of the Opposition through the reason that the tactics of the Club were not supported, and that is how Mr. Meredith is leader of the Opposition at the present time. In no locality, as the Premier himself had stated, had there been any favoritism shown in the Distribution Fund. The City of London, although it sent an opponent of Mr. Mowat to the Legislature, received that which it was in justice entitled to. So did the City of Hamilton, which sent a member supporting that Administration. It received just what it was entitled to and no more, so that every locality has received its just share of that surplus or expenditure which ought to go to that locality and no more nor no less. He proposed to deal briefly with some few Acts that had been touched upon, and he thought it necessary to bring them before those who had not studied them for the purpose of showing the legislation has been of benefit to the whole country. Of the many Acts passed, perhaps the

MECHANICS' LIEN ACT

commends itself most to the working classes, no matter whether an artizan or a supplier of the material, for this reason: a man undertakes to put up a building, he feels he is able to build a house for himself, the work goes on, perhaps he has contracted for a building worth $3,000 or $4,000. Perhaps three-quarters of the work is done, the contractor has received half of his money, and he is unable to pay that contractor the balance. The law says although that work has been put on, that man has become insolvent and the amount remaining unpaid is a lien upon that building, so that there is no chance of a contractor being deprived of his legitimate earnings (loud cheers) or a man who has supplied bricks or other material. That material forms a lien as against that property and thereby every class are protected by that admirable law under the administration of his hon. friend the Attorney-General. (Hear, hear and applause.) There is another Act enabling married women to carry on business. There is many a man from physical disability unable in a measure to earn a living for his family. That Act says the woman can carry on the business for her own benefit, and the husband's creditors cannot touch what little money she has amassed. That is an Act which must commend itself not only to the good sense, but humanity of every citizen who has any humanity in his feelings at all, because it enables those poor women who could not otherwise earn a living to bring up their families respectably. There is another Bill—he was always willing to give a warm credit for anything he does—there was one Bill introduced by Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition,

THE GARNISHEE BILL.

That Bill he would refer to because it affects in a measure the whole community. In a speech delivered the night before last in London, at which the godfather—the political godfather he meant—of the Opposition leader was present, the latter spoke about the people not being able to obtain employment, or, at least, at not very remunerative wages. The Garnishee Bill has had the effect that during the last winter when work was scarce, and particularly for laborers, they could not get credit. Why? Because the grocer from whom they were in the habit, during the time before the Garnishee Bill was introduced, would not trust them. They could not be trusted, as there was no possible chance of his being able to get his money if he did trust them, so that large numbers of people in the City of London were, from that very fact, unable to exist during the past winter. If this law had not been in existence these men would have been trusted. Possibly these men who were poor were honest, and, in many cases, more honest than their neighbors. They could not be trusted, because, the grocer says—"I will not be able to get paid for any bills, and you will not be able to get credit."

THE EXPENDITURE

had been touched upon by the Premier, and he would not occupy their time by any extended remarks in regard to it. Some points have been attempted to be made in regard to the increased expenditure, because they compare 1871 with 1878 and look at the increase in the expenditure. Senator Macpherson has had the audacity to say it has increased eighty per cent. His friends here repudiated the charge and say he knows nothing about it at all. That is the clearest evidence he has no friends or supporters in his own ranks. As pointed out by the Attorney-General, the expenditure must increase if there is increased work to do, just as in the case of the merchant, because the only way is to take the common-sense view and look at what takes place at our own doors. The wholesale merchant who last year had ten clerks and sold $300,000 worth of goods, this year sells $500,000 worth. He must increase the number of his clerks and porters. The whole expenditure increases, and although the benefit he derives is very small, still, the increased expenditure is necessary. Or, take the case of Mr. Gibson—a very prominent lawyer, with a large practice. When he finds his business increasing he must increase the staff of his office clerks, and although the benefit may not be commensurate with the increased expenditure, if he wants to keep up with his business it is absolutely necessary that there should be an increase in the number of his clerks. He remembered, when he went to school, they were content with a log school-house, and very thankful they were to get that. But look at the schools we have in this city at present. Why cannot they be content with what was in existence thirty years ago? Because, with increased requirements we must have increased accommodation, and, just as the pupils increase in number, we must have an increased number of teachers and appliances for carrying on the school. That causes increased expenditure, but that is absolutely necessary in order to keep up the departments of that educational establishment. He might go on indefinitely with the same result. There were one or two other matters to which he would refer, and then he would give way to the Provincial Secretary.

THE SURPLUS

has been spoken of and has been made use of by the leader of the Opposition. He says we are getting on to direct taxation. Why, it was only a year or two ago that these very people who cry out against the increased expenditure were wanting the Administration of the day to make a further distribution of the surplus. The time will come when the scheme which has been formed for the distribution of the surplus will take place and the Premier, with his usual fairness in doing what is right, will distribute it so that each portion of the province will derive its share of the benefit and result therefrom. What that will be it is for the Government to decide upon. The Conservatives say in the one breath, "You have got no surplus" and in the next place, "What will you do with it?" It was something like a man going to be flogged; he wanted the "cut" up a little high, a little low and then in the middle. (Laughter.) As a statement had been made in regard to Sandfield Macdonald's economy, he would have preferred they had made the difference between the expenditure of their natural leader, Sir John and the present Administration. That would have been a proper comparison to make, and the only one they ought to make, as Sir John is their head and political leader, Mr. Wm. Meredith says he wants to have

BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN ACCORD.

Then he might have pointed to the expenditure of the Dominion Government, and made a comparison between that and the Mowat Administration. (Hear, hear.) The cry was before the 17th of September, the Mackenzie Government were expending too much. When John A. got in, they said the Ministers' salaries should be reduced immediately upon their accession to power. Last session Mr. Bechard introduced a Bill for the reduction of the salaries of the Administration of the day, and these salaries were all set forth in a Bill, together with the reductions. He wanted to give the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General $5,000 a year, the Minister of Militia $5,000, and so on throughout the list. Did Sir John agree with this? Not at all. He only promised before the election, but not after they got into power. (Applause.) If Mr. Meredith got into power it would be the same thing—the promise would be made but never fulfilled. He did not think it necessary to touch on the indemnity question at all, as that had been fully discussed. Mr. Meredith says he is prepared to shoulder his share. We have the last leader of the Opposition stating he was one to suggest the salaries should be increased. He was one who thought some of the officials were inadequately paid and should get an increased allowance, and when a man of his experience gives his assent, they might be sure his followers fully assented to what his views were in regard to that question. He would not occupy their time in regard to this question; it would be fully discussed by the Provincial Secretary. They had the record of the Government for the past seven years from the time

EDWARD BLAKE

assumed the reins of Government down to the present year; they had their record from day to day. During the whole of that time not one subject of legislation has been brought up that has been objected to seriously by our opponents. When we find they have been able to carry on the Government with the acknowledgment of their opponents, it is an argument not only of the administrative ability but of the integrity of the Government and those who supported them. (Cheers.) A little unanimity in the work between now and the 5th of June next would place Mr. J. M. Gibson, the Reform candidate, at the head of the poll. (Applause.) No good is accomplished, no matter how small the undertaking, without unanimity and without work, and if ever there was an occasion when the City of Hamilton ought to put forth its strength it is the occasion now approaching. It was not impossible, he said, that at some future day

A MINISTER OF THE CROWN

would be wanting to fill some vacancy and if that event should occur he did not know where the leader of the Government could look with more satisfaction or could possibly lay his hand upon a better or more qualified member to assist in his Administration than would be the gentleman who is destined to sit as the representative of the people of Hamilton in the next Parliament. (Loud applause.) He did not know that he should refer to any class or any particular members of the community. Every one who knew him knew what his sympathies were. They had always been on the side of Reform and with the Reform cause. (Hear, hear.) He felt at least as one having intelligence to judge that the

PRINCIPLES OF THE REFORM PARTY

were justice and equality, and that with them and them alone no man's creed would have any weight or be a barrier against him. (Hear, hear and applause.) It was with that full conviction in his mind, not the hey-day of its prosperity, because he joined it when there was no prospect of its gaining power, he gave his first vote for the Reform party feeling the responsibility he was assuming, and he had never had cause to regret it from that day to this. And in the absence of Mr. Fraser—because it had become a policy of the Government since 1867 if it were possible, if there was a member of the party or supporter of the Government belonging to the persuasion of which he (Mr. McM.) happened to be a member, if he was qualified to fill the position of a Minister of the Crown—he would say since that has taken place and since the

HON. MR. FRASER

has been a member of that Administration and been the spokesman of his people, they had a right to feel satisfied and should all feel proud they had a man such as him an assistant to the Premier of this province. He was sure they were not expecting the Premier would give to any class or creed any special advantages. It has never been asked nor can it be possibly expected. Even-handed justice was what they expected, and he was sure they would get it from Hon. Mr. Mowat and his colleagues. (Loud applause.) It was for that reason he was always happy in his humble capacity to appear on the public platform and give his support to the Premier. He did not know he should pass a higher encomium upon him than the one was now going to read. It came from a hostile source, and coming that way he would give it for what it was worth. It comes from a resident of the Hon. the Provincial Secretary's town (Brantford) to wit. Mr. J. J. Hawkins, who, in the Town Hall, London, two years' ago said:—"But we know the Premier (Mr. Mowat) is not the man to cast dirt in their eyes—*he will say that which is true and right or he will not speak at all.* He (Hawkins) could say that so long as the Government of the Province is conducted by such men as Hon. Mr. Mowat, Hon. Mr. Pardee, and that young and rising statesman, Hon. Mr. Fraser—*there need be no fear but that the country will be ruled honestly and well.*" Mr. MacMahon concluded by saying he was sure they would all echo the sentiments of Mr. Hawkins, and if they agreed with him they would accept the advice tendered by him and vote