

In reply to the charges of the leader of the Opposition that he had attempted to bribe the electors of West Elgin in the speech which had been quoted, Mr. Hardy characterized the charges as trash and stuff, and declared that there was not one ten-thousandth part of bribery in all the remarks he had made as in one single appeal by the friends of the hon. gentleman opposite to a single manufacturer in respect to the price of his goods under the National Policy. (Cheers.) The Westminster had not copied the extract upon which its condemnation was based from The Globe, but from The Mail and Empire, which claimed to have copied it from The Globe, but had not copied the whole of it, nor did it copy the context. He then read from The Globe report of the speech, as follows:—"He spoke of its growth and prosperity, of the keen political contests of which it had been the centre. They were an ambitious city, a great railway centre, and were becoming more so. They were to some extent also a manufacturing city, and were a growing and expanding people. What did they wish to do on the 12th? Their opponents argued that the two Governments should not be in power, representing the same party at Ottawa and at Toronto. Applying their arguments locally to West Elgin, Mr. Hardy showed that as they already had a Conservative representative in the Dominion House, therefore they should send a Liberal to Toronto. This deduction was greeted with laughter and applause. Mr. Hardy pointed to the benefits that would follow such a course at a time when the flood tide of business was rising. Just as good times were upon them, just as the Governments were beginning to feel the effects of good times, of increased business, of increased commerce and growing enterprise throughout the Dominion, did they want to place so goodly a town in Opposition at both centres of political influence? (Cries of 'No.')

Continuing, Mr. Hardy paid Mr. Macnish a high personal tribute."

"Where is the bribery there?" asked Mr. Hardy. "Where the promise? What benefits had we to confer upon St. Thomas?"

Mr. Wardell—Railway aid.

Continuing, Mr. Hardy excused his interrupter for the remark, whose youth as a legislator was responsible for his ignorance of the fact that ten or twelve years ago the Government adopted the policy which had since been adhered to of not granting further aid to railways in the older settled portions of the Province.

The Prompting Motive.

Taking up the timber question and the reference to the necessity for raising revenue to replace the loss in Crown lands revenues owing to the prohibition of the exportation of logs, Mr. Hardy quoted Mr. Whitney's statement that he never anticipated there would be a reduction in the revenue as a result of the enforcement of that regulation. He hoped the press would quote him fully on that point. That the hon. gentleman would go from one end of the country to the other, talking upon that timber question, using violent language, seeking to inflame the

mind of the populace upon it, asking that the logs should be exported to the United States, and never anticipating or suspecting that there would be a reduction in the revenue, was an unparalleled statement upon the floor of the House, and one that he could not have conceived would drop from the lips of his hon. friend even in his rashest moments. He had said on the platform that the hon. gentleman did not know much on the timber question, and now he knew that he did not. (Cheers.) How was it possible to prevent the American lumbermen holding limits from cutting logs for export as they had been doing for some years without causing a sensible and appreciable reduction in the revenues of the Province? No other man could have been so blind as not to see what the result would be. It was a blind leader leading the blind in that sense. He must have known that there would be a great drop in revenue as a result. If he could say all he thought, without imputing motives, he would say he had wondered whether his hon. friend had as much solicitude as he alleged for the prevention of the Americans carrying it away. He had always suspected that there was something more, that there was another reason, avowed only in private and not in public, and that was that the moment they began to reduce the revenue of the Government from Crown timber and lands or other sources, they would have to impose in some way or other a tax for the purpose of making up their revenue, and the moment they began to tax the difficulties of the Government would begin and they would be in a corner. (Government cheers.) For the past fifteen years, during which the Opposition had been arguing against the license tax, Crown timber dues and other methods of raising revenue, the inspiring motive behind all this pretended desire and activity for the preservation of the timber has been the desire to get the Government in a corner rather than any consideration of the public rights and interests. (Cheers.)

The Educational Policy.

Replying to Mr. Whitney's remarks in reference to the proposed amendments to the school laws and his charge that the Minister of Education was cutting the ground from under his feet, and that there were not a hundred persons who could read and write in the whole Province who would say they agreed with the policy of the Government, Mr. Hardy said he had found it most difficult travelling all over the Province to find a hundred persons who knew what the policy of the hon. gentleman opposite is on education matters. (Cheers.) On the other hand, he pointed to the thousands who have expressed their opinion within the past few months in Halton, Lennox, East Northumberland and other ridings. The assertion of Mr. Whitney that not a shadow of education was imparted in the public schools of the present day was monstrous, unjustifiable and unwarranted. Did the hon. gentleman contend that the education is not practical enough? It is more practical than it ever was, and the tendency for