

so much, perhaps, of what is occurring to-day, the time has come when he should consider, more particularly even than the other members of the Cabinet, for reasons which are obvious, has not the time arrived when a rule should be laid down, when the Government should consider the position of its members with regard to these great corporations." In support of his argument Mr. Whitney quoted the case of Mr. Mundella, ex-President of the British Board of Trade, who resigned that office even after an Australian loan company with which he had been connected had gone to the wall, fearing the two interests might clash.

Mr. Whitney quoted from the Premier's Whitby speech to show that Mr. Ross had promised increased grants for agriculture, education and other purposes if the finances of the Province would permit, and asked how the promised aid could be given when the people were burdened with direct taxation that was likely to be increased.

Education Question.

Turning to the question of education, Mr. Whitney reiterated his views in regard to high schools and public schools. He was not opposed to high schools, but they were not what they ought to be, having degenerated into a manufactory for third-class teachers. As to the public schools, their founder intended them to be a substantive institution, unconnected with any other, where the children in attendance might acquire knowledge and information which would equip them for their subsequent vocation in life. Mr. Ross, however, had made the public schools part of a chain which terminated at the university, and seemed to consider the mechanism and smooth working of the chain of more importance than the actual effect upon the public schools. He repeated his plea for the appointment of an Advisory Committee, and said that Mr. Ross, in urging that such a committee would relieve him of Ministerial responsibility, had ignored Mr. Whitney's contention that the Minister could accept or reject the advice tendered by the Advisory Committee. Mr. Ross had offered to appoint a Consultative Committee, to which he should appoint one-half the members and Mr. Whitney one-half. It would not be long before politics would display itself among such a committee, and, moreover, what responsibility would rest upon them? Constant friction occurred between the authorities of Toronto University and the Government under the present system of Government control, and the institution would never realize the high aims entertained by its friends in regard to it until it was freed from Government control.

The Sawlog Policy.

Mr. Whitney indulged in a brief retrospect of the sawlog question, and claimed that the Opposition had forced the Government to adopt the policy at present in force. In the session of 1898 the present Attorney-General declared that the Government had long previously decided to adopt the manufacturing clause. Yet when the Opposition moved in favor of that policy the

Ministry declared it would be unjust, and voted it down. Such was the statesmanship of the men on the Treasury benches.

Election Irregularities.

Mr. Whitney went on to say that the commission of inquiry into election wrongdoing was not issued until the eve of the bye-elections. Mr. Ross dared not issue it sooner, because of the little conflagration down below. (Opposition laughter and applause.) "He dared not issue it," declared the speaker, "because he knew, as has turned out to be the fact, that the commission would not be sitting two hours until the fact of the disappearance of the ballots from West Elgin—because I do not say they are burned; I don't believe they were burned—would be blazoned forth to the world, and then what chance would there be of carrying East Elgin, West Elgin and East Middlesex?" He wondered if the hon. gentleman opposite took account as the days and weeks and months went by of the responsibility that would surely fall upon him some day for keeping back from the knowledge of the people of the Province, whose servant he was, that the foundation of all investigation, the corpus delicti, in this case had been removed, accidentally or otherwise. He noticed that the Conservatives who took money for their votes at some of the bye-elections were being prosecuted, while the men who destroyed ballots with pencils under their finger nails were walking unmolested on the streets to-day. (Opposition applause.) He referred to some of the acts of wrongdoing committed in the North Waterloo election, and said that in one polling subdivision 60 votes cast for the Conservative candidate were stolen by the men who were working for the Government. He maintained that every bye-election which had been carried by the Government since the general election of 1898, except that in North Wellington, had been carried by such means, and to-day the Government were occupying the treasury benches by virtue of an illegitimate majority.

(Opposition applause.) After the general election the machine started in South Ontario and went through all the constituencies where bye-elections took place, holding a high carnival of corruption and scoundrelism. (Opposition applause.) Truly, as the Premier had said, these things left a bad taste in one's mouth.

In North Waterloo.

Messrs. Gibson and Davis were present in North Waterloo during the bye-election, and one or the other made a promise that they would appoint scrutineers or organizers.

Mr. Gibson—No, sir.

Mr. Whitney was glad to accept the Attorney-General's statement.

Mr. Davis also disclaimed having made any such statement.

Mr. Gibson further explained that he was quite willing to undergo examination, even if it was irregular. He was in the constituency before the election, and no such promise, to his knowledge, was made, except as to speakers.

Mr. Whitney, continuing, said it transpired during the trial that a cer-