

of affairs in this Province. We have now had a commission appointed. My hon. friend promised to bring down the instructions given to the commission. They did not come down. Now, then, I say distinctly, in the first place, that instead of appointing a commission to deal with the rascalities of all the rascals in all these constituencies, they decided to appoint a narrow commission, referring only to one constituency, and only to the acts of the returning officer, deputy returning officers and poll clerks, is an insult, direct, plain, deliberate and palpable, to the good people of the Province. (Opposition cheers.) And I say it is unjust and unfair to those honorable Judges who have been appointed; it is unfair treatment to them to endeavor to put them in the position of being a catspaw by which these gentlemen hope to pull their chestnuts out of the fire.

"Take the case of Mr. Bole," said Mr. Whitney. "The deputy returning officer is dead and the ballots are burned. What is troubling Mr. Bole? Nothing whatever. He is as certain of freedom as any man ever born."

#### The Counsel Criticized.

The leader of the Opposition then turned his attention to the Crown counsel for the commission, Mr. Geo. H. Watson. He was a very able lawyer, one who stood high at the bar. He had lately become an ex-President of a Reform Association in this Province. "I hold that the appointment of any such gentleman, through whom all the evidence must go, is a gross, indefensible outrage."

Mr. R. A. Grant, Mr. Whitney said, was reported as appearing for the Liberal organization. "What right has he to appear there? The Liberal organization cannot be called before this tribunal. He is a most improper person to be there. My instructions are that this gentleman has attended several meetings of the commission, and has been in active, confidential conversation with the counsel for the Crown. Why should he be in close consultation with the counsel for the Crown? I am prepared to say here that with a proper commission, charges would be made against Mr. Grant with reference to the election in West Elgin. I say here that I do not believe Mr. Macnish would ever have signed the paper he signed but, first, from the fear of the discovery of the loss of the ballots, and, secondly, that certain men, not officers, would be sent to prison if he did not sign the document." (Cheers.)

Mr. Whitney then commented upon the fact that Mr. Watson apparently accepted the statement of officials as to the ballots being destroyed without attempting to sift the statement by cross-examination, and was the first to bring the disappearance before the Judges. From first to last there was no pretence at cross-examination. James Robertson was recalled before the Judges to prove that he had not been appointed to a Government position by Mr. Macnish. This and other circumstances created the impression that certain men were accused of certain crimes, and had their counsel before the commission to defend them. There was

not one tittle of evidence brought before the commission to show that the ballots were burned. There was evidence to show they might have been burned, but everybody knew that previously. As to the failure of Colonel Clarke to produce the ballots at the Magisterial investigation, on the ground that he had been advised that he could not do so except on the order of Superior Court Judges, Mr. Whitney declared that that official should have obeyed the subpoena to attend, and then given the reason why the ballots were not forthcoming. Mr. Whitney also animadverted upon Colonel Clarke's non-attendance at the Cahill investigation owing to illness. These were matters, he said which should have been the subject of cross-examination before the commission. In his concluding remarks he said the mills of the gods ground slowly, but they ground exceedingly small and the day would come when the performances of the Liberals in these elections would be shown forth in a clearer manner than they had yet appeared. Prior to the bye-elections Mr. Ross had said he hoped for a majority strong enough to enable the Government to legislate for the Province. The Premier had not got that majority, and the best thing he could do was to dissolve the House and appeal to the people. If Mr. Whitney thought the suggestion would be acted upon he would challenge Mr. Ross to go to the electors. The people were laboring under a sense of the deepest possible disgrace at the state of affairs which had been partially revealed, and which had already made the Province a by-word and a shame. (Loud Opposition applause.)

Mr. Ross moved the adjournment of the debate, and the House adjourned at 10.50.

#### Safety of Miners.

One of the changes in the mining law proposed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands is an amendment in relation to the health and safety of miners. With a view to securing information on the subject Mr. A. Blue, Director of the Bureau of Mines, has sent a circular to many miners and others interested, asking for suggestions along this line.

#### Members Want Information.

Mr. Matheson wants to know whether there are any sums of money owing to the Province for the purchase of Central Prison binder twine, and, if so, how much? Further, has any compromise been made within the past six months of claims of the Province against purchasers of binder twine? If so, what allowance was made, and for what reasons? Mr. Matheson is also anxious to learn whether the Government have sold the Provincial property at the cor-

ner of Queen and Yonge streets, and, if so, what the particulars are.

Mr. Macdiarmid intends to move for correspondence connected with the prosecutions against Messrs. Bole and Cahill in West Elgin.