

should go into force immediately. The Government, on the other hand, argued that such a policy would be indefensible and would amount to the grossest confiscation. Lawyers of eminence had expressed doubt as to the constitutionality of the law which was enacted. That law had up to the present been upheld, but what position would the Government have been in if they had done what Mr. Whitney urged them to do? It would have jeopardized the whole policy of prohibiting the export of logs, and would have been nothing short of a calamity. (Ministerial applause.)

The Nickel Policy.

The Government had been blamed for not moving years ago to secure the manufacture of nickel in the Province. Had that been done it was questionable whether the nickel mines would have been developed to any extent. The employment of labor in connection with the refining of nickel was inconsiderable. The further industrial development of nickel was of far greater importance, and that was what the Government were now seeking to bring about. The finest quality of nickel steel could be produced in Ontario, and to better advantage than in any other part of the world, and there was little doubt that in the near future the manufacture of this product would be carried on in this Province.

He knew of no one feature, speaking with regard to the mineral resources of the country, that promised so much as the nickel steel industry. Some of the largest interests in the world might be induced to invest in this resource. It was therefore of importance that the Government should pay attention to this matter. It was not a miserable, cheap attempt on the part of the Government to secure a little cheap popularity. (Applause.)

Pulpwood Possibilities.

With regard to pulpwood, a very considerable quantity of spruce existed south of the height of land, but in reality the great future of this industry would be founded on the spruce to the north of the height of land. The spruce resources there were unequalled in the world. There were almost unlimited water powers, and the Government had made regulations carefully guarding them, and providing that they would never become private property. It would become an important revenue producing asset. We may well expect large industries at an early date, combining the timber resources with the water power.

Touching upon the West Elgin matter, Col. Gibson said that he had not much reason to find fault with the tone of Mr. Macdiarmid's remarks. The Liberal party, he was prepared to admit, had reason to feel ashamed of some things that occurred in that election. As a party the Liberals would not say there were no black sheep in their flock, but they did say that from Confederation down to the present there had been a record of almost absolute freedom from corruption, which was almost remarkable. (Hear, hear.) Replying to the statement that the Attorney-General's Department should step forward as a private prosecutor, Col. Gibson said it was not the habit of that department to institute prosecutions. The rule has always been to leave the initiation of such proceedings to those interested or upon whom the responsibility rested, while the

department was here to be consulted when necessary.

Misfortune to the Party.

The most unfortunate thing that ever befell the Liberal party in the Province had been the destruction of the West Elgin ballots. (Hear, hear.)

Col. Matheson—The concealment, rather than the destruction, is the important point.

Col. Gibson—I do not know how far the concealment took place. How far there has

been concealment may be judged from the fact that the late member for West York (Mr. St. John) publicly proclaimed the fact. It also came out in the recent East Middlesex campaign. Col. Gibson said that he did not believe that, in his heart, the hon. leader of the Opposition or any of his supporters would go the length of suggesting that there had been anything purposefully or intentionally done by the Attorney-General's Department or by the Government in this matter with a view of shielding anyone from justice. There had been, Col. Gibson remarked, a great deal of iniquities on the part of the Conservative party in some of the recent elections. There had been a Tory machine every time. (Hear, hear.) There was a gang of paid Tory organizers who went from constituency to constituency every time. (Ministerial cheers.) It was all very fine for the Opposition to put on the airs of purity. (Applause.) He wondered whether Mr. Foy or any member of the Opposition was known to utter a protest when the North Ontario seat-stealing case occurred. There was no demand then on the part of the Opposition for a commission or shedding of crocodile tears at a failure of justice. Such cases, however, became so common in Dominion elections about 1891 that perhaps people became accustomed to them. Instances were numerous at that time where Conservatives occupied seats for which they had not been elected.

Conservative Artists.

Mr. Gibson read a part of the credentials which one of two Conservatives who went down from Toronto to work for Mr. Calder in South Ontario carried with them, but accidentally dropped. The document was now in the possession of an Oshawa gentleman. It read in part as follows:—"These two men are good men, and have had a great deal of experience. Take hold of them and make good use of them. They will no doubt make a good picture, as they are better artists than the two men formerly sent you. (Signed) Toronto Picture Company." There was no such firm in this city as the Toronto Picture Company, and there was no doubt this concern was part of the Conservative machine in Toronto. The inquiry into the West Elgin irregularities would be very thorough, and the loss of the ballots would not be allowed to interfere with the completeness of the investigation. Every lawyer knew that where the loss of documents had been established secondary evidence was allowed. Any private party could move before the courts for the prosecution of election offenders, and it was the proceeding which should have been followed here. If Mr. Macdiarmid was anxious to put down bribery he could have moved in the matter, and it was still open to him to do so. The whole intent of the election law was to remove the enforcement of its provisions from the Government and place it before the courts. If Mr. Macdiarmid had not thought the election trial a sufficient ventilation of corruption in West Elgin he could have applied to the Judges for a further investigation. (Ministerial applause.) No duty was thrown upon the Government to prosecute persons reported for bribery, but it devolved upon the Crown Attorney. As a matter of fact, however, the Attorney-General's Department had written to all the Crown Attorneys calling attention to the provisions of the act and asking them to proceed against persons reported for bribery. The law in regard to the procedure was somewhat vague, but his own opinion was that the Judges should, as they now had the power to do, issue summonses immediately where a prima facie case had been made out, and discontinue the practice of reporting to Parliament. He was willing to join hands with the Opposition in putting down corruption. He did not believe the severest penalties were the most efficacious means of putting down corruption, as there would be great difficulty, under such circumstances, in getting evidence. Some of Mr. Marter's sug-