

applause.) He would like in this connection to remind hon. gentlemen of the Opposition of a little bit of political history. In 1878 the Conservative party in the Dominion swept the country. They defeated the Liberal party, and the cry went up in the Province, "Remember Mowat," just as they were now saying, "Remember Ross." What happened? In the Provincial elections of 1879 the Liberals swept the Province, and Sir Oliver Mowat came back to the House with a majority of thirty-two, the largest in the history of the Province. (Government applause.) He did not desire to make rash prophecies, but he believed that history was going to repeat itself. They had a good cause and a good record—(Government applause)—and they were proud of the position which the Liberal party had taken. (Renewed Government applause.) In the Dominion House they had as leader a man of national reputation, a great Imperialist. In Ontario they had a man of equal ability and judgment, and were proud to fight under his banner. (Government applause.) In following a Liberal leader and working for Liberal principles they felt that they were doing something for Ontario to better its condition and make it the most happy and prosperous Province of the Dominion of Canada. (Long-continued Government applause.)

The Opposition Leader.

Mr. Whitney, who followed, considered Mr. Pattullo's speech a most remarkable utterance, a strange medley. He gathered that the conclusion reached by the hon. gentleman was that the Ontario Government could do no wrong. (Opposition applause and laughter.) He took exception to the hon. gentleman's reference to the masses in this country. He might as well drop that "stuff and nonsense" about masses and classes in Canada, where all men were equal. (Opposition applause.) Would the hon. gentleman, he continued, would any business man, contend that the taxing of insurance, loan companies and banks did not fall on the policyholder or the investor? What, then, became of the contention that because these companies were taxed the masses, so called, were not? They had warned the Government that direct taxation was coming, and so had other parties. The Globe newspaper in 1880 had warned the Liberal party that the day of taxation was at hand; the maximum of expenditure had been reached, and unless they took stock of their assets and liabilities direct taxation would soon be here. He agreed with the hon. gentleman that no community in the world had ever received such a financial statement as the one recently presented to the House—(Opposition laughter)—and, continuing on this line, argued that the statements made in previous years by the present Premier and his predecessors, that the Province had a cash surplus of from \$3,500,000 to \$6,000,000, had been entirely refuted by the report of the Royal Commission. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Pattullo) had attacked the willingness of members of the Opposition to concur in expenditures for colonization roads and other necessary works in

their constituencies. That was their right, and a right they would exercise.

A Charge of Favoritism.

In this connection he desired to call the attention of the Commissioner of Public Works and the Provincial Secretary to the fact that capital was being made by residents of townships in a certain constituency represented by a

supporter of the Government; that the people in a neighboring constituency could not have any good roads because they had dared to exercise their rights as British subjects by sending to the Legislature a man opposed to the present Administration.

Speaking of Mr. Pattullo's references to the West Elgin elections, he declared that the Opposition would speak their mind on the matter. He further contended that it was not the duty of his party to take any proceedings against Mr. Wm. Smith of South Ontario, as had been suggested. If action was necessary it should be taken by the proper officers of the law. He criticized several points of Mr. Ross' speech, which, he said, contained, among other things, the admission that the sawlog policy had been taken from the Opposition.

Mr. Ross—I said most emphatically that I did not admit it, except for the sake of argument.

Mr. Whitney, proceeding, criticized the Premier's references to the amount spent by Ontario on education, contending that it was not so large proportionately as in the State of New York, and spoke of a mass of literature sent out by the Provincial Secretary with regard to the amounts expended by the Government on hospitals and charities and other institutions. He also referred to "syndicate matter" sent out to the effect that Mr. Stratton was the coming Premier, but not a word was said regarding his hon. friend the Attorney-General.

Mr. Gibson—You need not worry about him. He can take care of himself. (Government applause and laughter.)

Tribute to the Attorney-General.

Mr. Whitney—My own private opinion is that he (the Attorney-General) will be more than a match for all the syndicate paragraphs that can be found. (Laughter.) The Premier and Treasurer, Mr. Whitney continued, had referred to the amount of money spent to keep the people of Ontario straight. Some of that money might be better spent in sending to the jail and penitentiary some men by whose acts the Administration held power. (Opposition applause.) The Police Magistrates of London and Toronto had said that they could not stop gambling, but the Premier had claimed that the Government had put a check to that evil. Mr. Whitney also spoke of a recent explanation by Hon. Mr. Davis as to tenders for the sale of timber berths. He would not and could not make any direct charges unless he had the materials at hand, but the presumption was that the friends of the Government had had time to examine the berths.

Mr. Davis—I make a most distinct denial to that.