

prevailed for two or three elections before the defeat of the late Dominion Government."

The Attorney-General concluded by saying that he did not propose to go into a discussion of that at the present time. It has been discussed pretty fully. But the course of the leader of the Opposition in dealing with the Provincial elections was a fair comparison of a man straining at a gnat while swallowing a camel with any number of humps of very large dimensions. (Government applause.) The Liberal party wanted a full and fair expression of the popular will in the elections, and had no inclination to either obtain or retain power that was not the legitimate outcome of the open and honestly expressed preponderating desire of the people of this Province. (Loud and long-continued Government applause.)

#### Mr. Whitney on His Defence.

Mr. Whitney, in closing the debate for the Opposition, commented on the optimistic views of Mr. Charlton as to the timber resources of the Province, and said no good purpose would be served by misleading the people. He thought Mr. Charlton's statement as to how long the timber supply would last was a mere expression of opinion. Continuing, Mr. Whitney defended himself against the charge of the Provincial Secretary that he had, by promising free power, attempted to bribe a whole riding by his speech at Niagara Falls. "Paradoxical as it may sound," he said, "I was glad to hear him make that assertion, because since I have been in public life—a little over twelve years—with more or less of the notoriety which is attendant upon hon. gentlemen in my position, it is the first time in all these years that hon. gentlemen opposite, or their supporters throughout the country, have ever brought forward anything in the nature of a corrupt charge against my record. (Opposition cheers.) I made no statement there which I will not repeat here now—(renewed Opposition cheers)—and if the hon. gentleman will only read the newspaper reports of my speech—read The Globe—he will find that I said nothing there which any man desirous of maintaining the highest standard of public morality of this or any other country would object to."

#### The Niagara Falls Speech.

Mr. Whitney then read from The Niagara Falls Daily Record the following report of his speech:—"I say that everything will be done by me that can be done to make this water free, no matter whom you may elect, and it will be done because it is right."

He then read from the speech of the hon. leader of the Government at Madoc some time ago, and challenged comparison as to which was the greater bribery:—

"After drawing attention to the resources of the country, he said the Government had not done very much about these. The people of the district, in fact, did not know of this, and it seemed a reasonable portion now that after 27 years' experience of Opposition they would give the riding a chance to see

what the Government would do." Mr. Whitney referred to his position on the Algoma Central Railway grant, and said he had contended that too much had been given. Mr. Clergue in his speech at the Board of Trade a month before the bill was introduced had said he had already sent a man to England to secure ships for his steamship line. The statement was made in the House that the steamship line was to be established as one of the things in consideration of the concession given. (Opposition cheers.)

He had been accused of not giving his opinion on the beet sugar and good roads propositions. One very good reason was that the bills were not explained when they were introduced. However, he was in favor of good roads, and he believed the encouragement of the beet-sugar industry was a good movement, provided the encouragement got to the right people. (Opposition applause.)

#### More of Bossard's History.

Mr. Whitney, continuing, referred to the Bossard affidavit read by Mr. Graham, and said he had other affidavits, which he would not read. He would, however, ask the hon. gentleman to make inquiry as follows:—"Who went up from Toronto with money to pay Bossard to leave the country so that he would not give any evidence at the election trial, and who did not give him the money because some friends of the Conservative party previously served him with a subpoena to give evidence? Just before he made this recent affidavit was not Bossard applying for a tavern license in Penetanguishene, and after mental anguish on the part of the commissioners was he not granted the license, which he is now holding, and was not this a condition precedent to the granting of the license? Whether dissatisfaction was expressed by one or more of the License Commissioners because they were held up in order to tell them to grant Bossard a license against their wishes?" If the hon. gentleman could not get information on these points, he (Mr. Whitney) promised to enlighten him. (Opposition applause.)

#### West Elgin Report.

Mr. Whitney then took up the West Elgin case, and found fault with the Government for allowing the Deputy Attorney-General to hold a quiet investigation as to the burning of the ballots. He wanted to know why the evidence before the commission was only typewritten, and not printed. He must conclude the Government did not have any anxiety that the Opposition

should peruse it. The conclusion, the statement, the judgment of the commission on the whole matter, was absolutely incorrect. Based upon the evidence of Mr. Macnish given at St. Thomas, it would have been correct, but his evidence given at Toronto upset that finding. It was an extraordinary thing that after all the statements in the newspapers and elsewhere, and after the written admission of Mr. Macnish, drawn up by one of the most eminent counsel in Canada, in which he stated certain things were done with certain