

erect, the commission should now say that his statements or admissions were untrue.

Burned Ballots.

Referring to the report of the North Waterloo Commission, he said that it bore date of Nov. 7, 1899, and had been before the House five weeks, but nothing had been done by the Attorney-General. The latter had confined his remarks to a discussion as to the advisability of punishment for bribery. He (Mr. Whitney) would refuse to deal with that while the larger issue was still before them. The whole argument of the Attorney-General was simply the putting up a man of straw in order to knock him down. He contended that while, as his hon. friend had said, the election courts could not punish men who had committed certain acts in these elections, there were other methods, and other courts in which these men could be tried. (Opposition applause.) Many a long year would elapse, he continued, before any sane person in the country would believe that the West Elgin ballots, which alone of the whole collection were dangerous to the powers that be, were destroyed purely by inadvertence. (Opposition applause.) The argument that Conservatives had done these things was no argument at all. A man who commits murder this year should not be pardoned because a murderer escaped capture last year. (Opposition applause and laughter.) While the Opposition had the power they would continue to use all their efforts to discover and punish perpetrators of these crimes. (Opposition applause.)

Educational Affairs.

In concluding, he referred to educational affairs, contending that gravest defects existed, and were admitted by all to exist, in the present system, particularly in regard to the public schools. The latter system should be remodelled, and a consultative council to confer with and advise the Minister should be appointed. The high schools should no longer be merely training schools for teachers. A forward position should also be taken on the university question. The Provincial University had struggled on under great difficulties year after year. On the Opposition side of the House they were determined that a remedy, immediate, permanent and lasting, must be applied, and took the responsibility of insisting that the finances of the institution be put on a suitable footing by providing an annual income. The Government hold of the university should be relaxed. Mr. Whitney also contended that the claims of Queen's University could not be overlooked in any scheme that might be adopted. (Opposition applause.)

The Premier's Speech.

The Premier, who rose to conclude the debate at 10.10, was received with loud cheers. He thought the tone of the leader of the Opposition was not in keeping with the gravity of the subject which he professed to discuss. He had charged that grave political offences had been committed, and he had even gone so far as to say that our

liberties were endangered, that the whole constitutional fabric was endangered and tottering to a fall. He would have expected Mr. Whitney to present some evidence before the great jury of the House. Instead of evidence and argument he gave declamation and invective in abundance. He assumed that hereafter his Honor would call the House to meet not to do public business, in order to discuss what may be for the interests of the Province, but to discuss West Elgin—(Ministerial cheers)—the corrupt practices of the Boles, the Pritchetts, the malfeasance of returning officers and deputy returning officers. Mr. Whitney was in a pessimistic frame of mind and seemed to be losing faith in the country. There was not much timber left. Dr. Pyne wanted a smelter on the Welland Canal. Somebody else said there should be large industries at Niagara Falls. Let the Opposition lie in their narrow cloisters and look out upon the great Province with all its great throbbing industries and teeming farms. They had made their bed; they should lie in it. That had been the decree of this country for 30 years, and it would again be the decree of the country. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Whitney's Niagara Speech.

Mr. Ross went on to refer to Mr. Whitney's speech at Niagara Falls, saying:—That speech was unworthy of my hon. friend. That is my opinion; he may dispute it. What was the position? A bye-election was on; it was expected to be a very close contest. Mr. Whitney went over there with some of his associates. Mr. Crawford, Mr. Pyne and Mr. St. John. A good deal of interest was taken in the development of power from the Niagara River.

Niagara Falls Power.

An agreement had been made for the development of power on the Canadian side, but that development did not take place and the people of Niagara Falls were dissatisfied with the progress being made. One of their complaints was that the power was subjected to a duty, or rather that we had leased the power to a company, some of them Americans, and to other persons, and that we required them to pay \$25,000 per year for that lease. It was urged that because of the amount of money that these men had to pay they did not develop the power, while on the American side nothing was paid. The charge was made last session that we had given away vast pulp concessions without receiving proper return, and had given Mr. Clergue an easy bargain at the Soo. If hon. gentlemen believe, as we believe, that any proper asset should be so managed so as to yield a revenue to the Province, then the Government would be grossly at fault if it disposed of the Niagara power without some consideration. (Government applause.) What have we done? We have established a park there at the suggestion of Lord Dufferin. Negotiations were carried on by my predecessor, Sir Oliver Mowat, and the Province invested \$600,000 in the lands that constitute that park. The interest on that amount had to be paid. We met it by certain tolls paid by those