

who passed through the gates, the rent of certain buildings which we own in the park, and the lease of the power on our side of the Niagara Falls. If we gave that power free what would our position be? The indebtedness of \$600,000 would be a charge on the whole Province, instead of on the power, lease and other concessions.

Gambling for Support.

What did my hon. friend offer? He went down to Niagara Falls and offered to relieve the power company, some of them Americans, of that obligation, and so throw the whole obligation of \$600,000 on the people of the Province. I want the people of Ontario to know this. I want them to know that he was gambling for a constituency, and the price was \$600,000 of the money of the people of Ontario, representing an annual income of \$25,000 which we are receiving. (Government applause.) He wanted the power to be free as air. It can only be free as air at the sacrifice of \$25,000 per year to the people of this country. I do not say that there was any corrupt intent; I merely state the fact. He went down, in cold blood to a constituency in the Province of Ontario, in the year 1900, and his words—I have them here in The To-

ronto Mail—constituted an offer to give away a revenue of \$25,000 per year, for what? For the support of the electors of the Town of Niagara. (Government applause.)

Mr. Whitney—Read it, read it.

Mr. Ross—I will: "He agreed with Mr. Ross that the town should have the power. But Mr. Ross had been careful to say that the power should not be free. Mr. Whitney declared that it should be free, and anything in his power to make it free would be done, because in respect of every other consideration it would be right." "Would it be right?" asked Mr. Ross. "The ostensible reason," he continued, "it may not have been the only reason; but in my heart I believe it was, was that he might favorably influence the electors of the Town of Niagara Falls. (Government applause.) He poses as a purist—(Government applause)—he asks if ever such crimes were committed as those in West Elgin. Did he ever know, or read, in the political history of this country, of a case where the leader of a great party, and the Conservative party is too great for some men who speak for it, went to a constituency and in such plain language made such an offer?"

A Bold Bid.

History, Mr. Ross said, did not contain any record of such a thing being done in Canada. Of course the money was not the money of the leader of the Opposition or of his friends. If the hon. the leader of the Opposition and his party were in power and had timber limits and other concessions to dispose of there would be a great saturnalia. Concessions would be thrown at the heads of their friends so long as they voted right. The offer was a blot on the career of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman from East Toronto had also endorsed the proposition, and the gentle-

man who had formerly represented West York had cried "Me, too." Yet these were the men who denounced Pritchett and Boyle and had Mr. Bossard loaded so that he might give evidence to implicate Hon. Mr. Davis and others. (Government applause.) There never was such a transparent bid, so improper a bid, Mr. Ross contended, for the purpose of swaying an election. He referred to criticisms made by Opposition members in regard to his (Mr. Ross') own speech at Madoc, and, quoting the words used there, said that they were quite within the bounds of propriety as coming from a Minister of the Crown.

A Government's Business.

What could a member of a Government say less than he had said upon that occasion? Should he say that if they sent a supporter of the Government it would do them no good? Sir Robert Peel had spoken as he had spoken, so had every leader of the Imperial Parliament since the beginning of time, and so had said every leader of the House of Commons since Confederation. It was the Government's business to see what they could do for the people, and the Government that failed to keep that before their mind would fail in getting the confidence of the people. And it was because the present party had seen to it so carefully, so honestly, that the people of the whole country had seen fit to do something for the Government and keep them in power. (Ministerial cheers.) The people believed the Government and had responded to their appeal for their support, and as a consequence they were in power to-day. (Renewed cheers.)

Mr. Ross then went on to speak of the agreement with the Algoma Central Railway. Mr. Clergue, he said, was a very progressive man, and he wished we had twenty Clergues in this country. Mr. Clergue had interviewed the Government before the House met, and treating the Government as honorable men, who had made an agreement subject to the ratification of the House, the Sault capitalist had gone on with some of the enterprises which were mentioned in the agreement subsequently signed. Mr. Clergue ran the risk of having the agreement rejected by the House, but, on the other hand, the House now holds him down to do certain things which he would not otherwise have been held down to perform. Every proposition which the Government had made for old or new Ontario was one from which he believed some results would flow. "Rather a thousand times fall in some of your measures than sit and hug your gold as the miser does, afraid to move," Mr. Ross exclaimed. "That is not the way this country was built; that is not the way Mr. Clergue proceeded, nor the way the great railways are proceeding. That has been our position, and it is one which is defensible anywhere."

Pritchett's Affidavits.

Continuing, the Premier referred to the Pritchett affidavits in the West Elgin case read last session by the leader of the Opposition. Pritchett was an old friend of the hon. gentle-