

man. (Laughter.) Of the three affidavits made by Pritchett the longer was the most dangerous, and in the eyes of Mr. Whitney so important that when asked by the commissioners to forward it to them he would not part with it.

Mr. Whitney—The statement is incorrect; it is not true.

Mr. Ross—The hon. gentleman gave them a copy.

Mr. Whitney—How do you know?

Mr. Ross—I have it here in the evidence.

Mr. Whitney—I sent the actual document which I read here.

Mr. Ross—Then the hon. gentleman did not have the original.

Mr. Whitney—I had, and I have it here now, and my hon. friend dare not prosecute Pritchett. (Opposition applause.)

Mr. Ross—He has the precious document with him; he did not give the original to the commissioners. (Government applause.) Continuing, the Premier referred in caustic terms to Pritchett and his dealings with the Conservative party. The leader of the Opposition had asked the House last session to pass a vote of want of confidence in the Government on the strength of an affidavit made by this Pritchett, a convicted perjurer, a fugitive from justice. He (Mr. Ross) asked the members of the House to consider the high character of the associates of his hon. friend. He pictured the leader of the Opposition carrying Pritchett's affidavit around in his bosom, fearful lest anyone should steal it. (Government applause.) There was no need to fear; the members of the Government would not ask that the precious document be impounded. (Government laughter.)

A. Precious Pair.

Then there was Bossard. What a pair of Siamese beauties! Bossard gave evidence, very curious evidence. Mr. Whitney had said Bossard was now keeping a hotel at Pehetanguishene. He (Mr. Ross) did not know anything about that. How did Mr. Whitney know? Those were the men by whose evidence he tried to defame the Government. Those were the men whom he posed here as representative Liberals. Bossard was no Liberal—never was. (Opposition laughter.)

Mr. Wardell—Mr. Davis was in Bossard's hotel.

Mr. Davis—I desire to say I never was in Bossard's hotel in my life. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Ross—We repudiate Bossard from this side of the House.

Mr. Wardell—I never was in his hotel in my life. I do not know him, but I did see the Commissioner of Crown Lands in company with Bossard.

Mr. Ross—He says he would not know Bossard if he saw him; then he says he saw the Commissioner with him. (Loud Ministerial cheers and laughter.)

Mr. Wardell remained on his feet, and while the Liberals cheered Mr. Whitney appealed for a hearing for his supporter, saying:—"The hon. gentleman has a right to repudiate misrepresentation on the floor of this House."

Mr. Wardell—I said I did not know

Mr. Bossard to speak to, but I did see the Commissioner of Crown Lands in his company in North Waterloo.

Mr. Ross, continuing, said that Pritchett, although he was not promised money by the Conservatives for his affidavits, was promised, while a refugee from justice, that if he returned and gave the affidavits he would not be prosecuted. He returned, and that promise was kept, as shown in evidence in the West Elgin investigation. That was compounding a felony on the part of the Conservative party. Pritchett had his price—his price was his freedom and he got it. (Ministerial cheers.)

William Smith's Case.

Mr. Ross went on to speak of William Smith of South Ontario as a friend of Mr. Whitney.

Mr. Whitney—Never spoke to him four times in my life.

Mr. Ross—Four times! You can put up a good many jobs in four times. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Whitney—Smith is not a familiar acquaintance of mine, and if the hon. gentleman doesn't know it, he ought to have known it.

Mr. Ross—He was on different platforms with my hon. friend. He moved a vote of thanks to my hon. friend. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Whitney—Once.

Mr. Ross—Once. My hon. friend is a good witness; he comes right along with me. You don't have your enemies on your platform. He must be your friend. (Cheers.) They had, he continued, the Pritchetts and the Bossards, and now they had got the large Smith family. (Laughter.) He could not forget, nor would he let the country forget, that William Smith had bought votes by the score in South Ontario. Smith had spent, on his own evidence, \$1,200 for that purpose, and was told by the Judges that he was brazen-faced. And yet in the elections of 1898 two thousand Conservatives had voted for that man, who had only been defeated by a majority of 98. Hon. gentlemen opposite, in spite of these facts, were, no doubt, sorry that Mr. Smith had been defeated. The Premier spoke in condemnatory terms of Mr. Smith's conduct, and, continuing, said that Mr. Whitney had expressed himself as believing that the ballots in the West Elgin election had not been burned, and were in existence to-day.

Mr. Whitney—I said that I was not prepared to believe that they were destroyed.

Mr. Ross—If they were not destroyed they must be in existence. That is the inference.

Mr. Whitney said he was not in a position to be convinced that they were destroyed. He would not be surprised to find that they were destroyed or were still in existence.

Mr. Ross quoted the details of the finding of the commission in the matter, and contended that the evidence of destruction was convincing to all fair-minded men. He dealt with the scope and composition of the commission, and asked if hon. gentlemen were prepared to say that its members were not able, competent and honest men.