

was impossible to tell how much money had been spent in this way, but the people of South Oxford and of Ontario wanted to know where this money came from. (Applause.) Men wanted to enter public life without being hounded and branded as he had been. An old Liberal of forty years' standing said to him afterwards:—"My God, what is this country coming to when such things can take place?" He hoped that in view of these facts hon. gentlemen opposite would live up to what was said by the Premier, that they would govern the country as honorable men or they would not govern it at all. If they did live up to their professions their resignations would be in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor before many hours. He felt it his duty to his constituents to bring these matters before the House, and hoped a searching investigation would be made. Large sums of money had been spent freely and improperly to secure evidence. He had reason to believe that an effort would be made by hon. gentlemen opposite to get up counter-charges of a similar nature. If this were so he had no doubt they would soon hear of it. (Opposition applause.)

#### Dr. Reaume Cites Precedents.

Dr. Reaume (North Essex), after a complimentary reference to the speech made by the seconder of the address from the throne (Mr. Stock), and a reference to his (the speaker's) inability to speak in as perfect English as he would like, said he did not intend to take up the time of the House at any length. He wished to say that the question under consideration was one, to his mind, of vital importance and grave consequences. The charges that had been made and the resolution of the hon. Premier to adjourn for three weeks had aroused in himself sentiments of patriotism and love of country. The question at issue was what court of justice should decide the guilt or lack of guilt of those who were accused. Were they to take the records of similar cases, if any case could be similar, for he presumed that there were hardly any in the British Empire that could be called similar? For instance, there were the irregularities that occurred in the Department of Public Works in the Dominion Government in 1891, in which a Minister of the Crown was implicated. That hon. gentleman was not very long in his seat after the charges were made; only for such a time as to declare that he was willing to be tried by his peers, by his fellow-members. Had they not in this Provincial Legislature, in the same way, a Committee on Privileges and Elections? What objection could a member have to a trial by his fellow-members, fellow-Canadians, and fellow-men, who were as proud of the untarnished fame of Canada as he could be? For his part, he had come as a private member, charged with a mandate, and he was anxious to fulfill the duties of that mandate, whether as a member of the Municipal or Railway Committees, or of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. He was willing to sit and deliberate and to perform any task, however arduous or however unpleasant it might be. He said that it remained to be seen whether the hon. gentleman who was accused would record his vote in a division or in any report made in regard to this question. Sir Hector Langevin had not appeared in the record of votes in 1891 in the matter of the charges against himself. The speaker did not for one moment wish it to be understood that in any sense he had any objection or prejudice against the judiciary, who it was proposed should investigate the charges. He would say that he entertained the greatest respect for and the greatest possible confidence in the integrity of our judiciary. But it looked to him as though the members of the House, by appointing a judicial commission, were shirking duties which really belonged to them.

#### Liberal Organizers.

Continuing, he said that in reading over the political history of this Province, particularly that concerning corruption in elections, and after hearing the long and able speech from the

hon. gentleman for South Oxford (Mr. Donald Sutherland), and the manner in which he upheld his statements, and after hearing the declarations as to what had been done in attempting to disqualify him, he hoped for the honor and glory of Ontario that steps would be taken to have a most thorough investigation.

Dr. Reaume then referred to a number of Liberal organizers, and others who had assisted in various compains, mentioning the names of Smith, Vance, Preston and O'Gorman. He would not forget to mention the latter, because there had been complaints about him in his own riding. There were lots of others. He did not wish to give the whole list, because it was a very lengthy one. Some of them were in the employ of the Government, and had taken part in the general election and bye-elections. Although they had not been able to bring to the door of the present Government the proofs, nevertheless the Government had profited by the manipulations, ballot-burnings, switchings, and the like. One of these men was exiled from this western hemisphere to the British Isles. He was not kept alive on bread and water, but was fed on the fat of the land. Dr. Reaume then spoke of the "celebrated Pritchard," whose evidence, as they all knew, was that he was engaged to bribe the honest electors.

#### The Speakership.

"Listening intently to the remarks of the hon. gentleman from South Oxford, Dr. Reaume continued, and learning the extent to which he was approached, I feel somewhat jealous. (Opposition laughter.) I want to say that he was not the only Opposition member who was considered acceptable enough to be admitted into the other ranks. He was not the only hon. member to whom was extended the hand of welcome, and who was asked to enroll himself under that banner of purity. (Opposition laughter and applause.) I am free to declare, notwithstanding the declarations of the hon. the Premier, that I myself was in a position to refuse overtures, I do not say money. I was told that I was a pretty good fellow, a man that might be desirable, and to 'come on J. O. and I will see that you get the Speakership. (Opposition applause.) You may talk of your considerations, but I consider, Mr. Speaker, that there was the plum of all. (Laughter.) I let it be understood, Mr. Speaker, that I was not a rival for the honorable position of First Commoner, which you have the honor to occupy, upon which I sincerely congratulate you, and I may add I am highly pleased with the selection."

#### More than Jokes.

Proceeding, he said it had been proposed to adjourn for three weeks, but he felt that he could hardly go back to his constituents so soon, and tell them that the Government was not ready to go on with the administration of the affairs of the Province until the clouds had disappeared and they had emerged, politically speaking, ready to be clothed in the white garments emblematic of innocence. (Opposition laughter.) Of course it would be said, "Don't you believe that; it was only a joke," but the statements made by the members for South Oxford and Manitoulin had shown that these matters had become much more than jokes. "The hon. member that made the proposition reminded me very much of the young man who, having made a proposition of marriage, and having been unceremoniously refused, said, 'Well, never mind; I do not need to anyhow.' (Laughter.) If there is such a thing as some system, some organized plan of keeping the present Government in power by such illegal ways, a piece of machinery with that for its object, the sooner that machine is broken and destroyed the better for the honor and glory of our country." (Long-continued Opposition applause.)

#### What did Mr. Whitney Say?

Mr. Pettypiece (East Lambton) said he would, as far as possible, refrain from bringing into the debate any irrelevant matter. Others had said that it was a question which, as far as possible, should be free from party

bias—and prejudice, and he was sorry they had not adhered to their expressed opinions. One of those hon. gentlemen (Mr. Whitney) had referred to the report which had appeared in The Globe in regard to his unfortunate remarks of yesterday in connection with the "loading of dice," and had found fault with that newspaper for putting, in its own way, the manner in which those words were used. I find, Mr. Pettypiece continued, that The Toronto Mail and Empire in two different places makes reference to the same matter.

Mr. Whitney—I am not in the habit of making criticisms, but I do not propose that the hon. gentleman shall be allowed, after my distinct and positive denial of the statement attributed to me by The Globe, to get up and attempt to force upon me the acknowledgment that I did make the statement which I have already refuted. I wish him to understand that I will not submit to it unless the rules compel me to do so.

Mr. Pettypiece—The matter is in your hands, sir, as the presiding officers.

Mr. Ross—The hon. gentleman is at liberty to say what The Mail has reported in that particular case.

Mr. Pettypiece—The statement made by The Mail and Empire—

Mr. Whitney—I repeat that he proposes to read The Mail and Empire to convict me of making a misstatement on the floor of the House. I tell him it was a falsehood.

Mr. Gibson—The hon. gentleman is certainly right in the reference which he has delivered. How does the hon. member (Mr. Whitney) know he is going to contradict his correction?

Mr. Whitney—Because he says what I find—

Mr. Gibson—The correction was a correction of headlines in The Globe report, with the admission following that the report was perfectly correct. If this is the case, and if my hon. friend is simply going to read the report of the speech—

Mr. Whitney—He is not.

Mr. Gibson—Who says he is not? He says he is going to refer to a report of another newspaper, probably in precisely the same words as The Globe report, which he (Mr. Whitney) says is perfectly correct. I do not see why he should object.

Mr. Whitney—He asks the House to hear a statement intended to contradict my denial.

Mr. Ross—The one question in dispute is the heading.

Mr. Pettypiece—The words in The Mail report are these: "The hon. gentlemen opposite know they have no safety except the dice be loaded—except they name their own tribunal."

Mr. Whitney—Through the leniency of yourself, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has been allowed to go on and do that which, I am bound to say, there are very few other members of the House would do. He has endeavored to do what he dare not do elsewhere. He has made a statement that my statement here is not correct; he attempts to prove that what I said is not true by reading something from another newspaper, which, he says, makes that to be a fact. The hon. gentleman had no right to do it, and the hon. gentlemen have not loaded themselves with glory. (Opposition applause.)

Mr. Ross—Is that the statement of my hon. friend? The hon. member for Lambton has not made any statement—

Mr. Whitney—You dare not—

Mr. Ross—My hon. friend is very bold to-day. What does he mean? Is he going to play the role of a prize-fighter in this House. (Laughter.)

Mr. Whitney—That is my attitude.

The Opposition leader here shook his clenched fist in the direction of the Premier.

Mr. Ross—The clenched fist is his attitude. I thank him for his recognition of decent Parliamentary rules. The member for Lambton has expressed no opinion as to the statement of the hon. gentleman. The question in dispute was the heading. It was the privilege of my hon. friend to read its words, but not to say that he endorsed them.

Mr. Pettypiece said he did not think