

palities of \$3,388,777 of assets. And whoever heard of any country erecting New Parliament Buildings without incurring debt for the purpose? Our present Parliament and Department Buildings were paid for out of ordinary revenue and we do not even count in our surplus the valuable property known as the old Parliament Buildings Block, a property which should realize a very large sum. We have ample resources and with just such management in the future as the Liberal Governments have given the Province in the past, there need be no dread of Mr. Whitney's threatened direct taxation. (Applause.)

ELECTION FRAUDS.

The most has been made of any frauds which were perpetrated in West Elgin or North Waterloo, in the way of attempting to smirch the record of the Liberal party. In season and out of season, more frequently out of season, Mr. Whitney has exhausted the supply of vituperative and abusive words which the English language affords in discussing these matters. We have never thought to excuse or palliate the wrong doings of those irresponsible persons, who, in these bye-elections, were guilty of improper conduct. But the theatrical displays made by Mr. Whitney from time to time throughout this Province, in discussing these two election cases are strong testimony of the weakness of his general opposition to the Government and its policy. Two blacks do not make a white and no one is ever edified very much by hearing the pot call the kettle black. But one would suppose, from the simulation of virtuous indignation, practised so frequently by Mr. Whitney, that he belonged to a party whose record in the past was free from even the suspicion of electoral wrong-doing or impurity. No Government in Canada has gone further than the Ontario Government, or so far, in following up with prosecutions those who were reported at the election trials, and if some of those, who were concerned in some of the election irregularities, have escaped punishment, it has not been from any fault on the part of the Government.

THE CONSERVATIVE RECORD IN PART.

A long list of cases might be mentioned of systematic frauds perpetrated by the Conservative Party in Election Contests, cases in which deliberate efforts were made to thwart the will of the people.

Take a few illustrations: In the North Ontario Election of 1896, 21 ballots for Graham (Liberal) were abstracted from the ballot box and 21 substituted for Major McGillivray the Conservative who sat in the House for a time as the result of the fraud.

In a South Grey Election 7 ballot boxes were opened after the election and envelopes containing the Landerkin ballots taken out, 26 of them abstracted, and 26 forged ballots for Mr. Blyth the Tory Candidate substituted.

In a West Northumberland Election a Deputy Returning Officer, while the ballots were in his custody, took them out of the box and put them in his safe, and while there they were tampered with, some being stolen and forgeries substituted.

In a South Wentworth election the Liberal candidate was the choice of a majority of the voters but was left at home by 15 good ballots marked for him being conveniently stowed away in the envelopes for spoiled ballots.

In a Chateauguay election the Liberal candidate had a good majority of 175 whittled down to 9 by similar fraudulent practices.

And so in other cases, the fagot vote frauds of East York, the Lincoln case, the