

to assume that they tell the truth, although there may be occasions on which that would be a rash assumption. (Laughter.) It is just as well, however, that we should deal with these questions from time to time. Before the elections take place, new questions or solutions of questions may be suggested, and it may fall to the province of the members of the Opposition in the Legislature—because they formulate the policy, and not Mr. Whitney—to say something more and discuss any new issues that may arise in the interval.

Owing, I believe, to the peculiar nature of our system of responsible government there must be two political parties. Public opinion veers from side to side with regard to great public questions from time to time, and so it is, as this pendulum of public opinion swings backward and forward from one side to the other, that the majority of the people rule. Those who are in power to-day may go out to-morrow, because public opinion condemns the policy of the party in power. That, I take it, is the beauty of our system of responsible government. In order that it should work out properly, and without friction, it is not only desirable but necessary that each party should propose or suggest something for the arbitrament of the people.

Our opponents—I am not speaking now in an unkindly spirit—since Confederation, have been in the peculiar position of never having offered anything, either at Ottawa or Toronto, of importance to the people of Canada or the Province of Ontario. They attained power by means of accidents, and they have retained power—I refer now to the Province of Ontario—by various means, with most of which you are well acquainted; and they have finally wound up by selling from year to year the capital stock of the province—its timber resources—and when they found that even with that they were on the brink of the last ditch, they even added to that the unique act of breaking open the ballot boxes and stealing the franchises of Conservative voters. (Hear, hear.) Having become brave enough to go a little deeper they destroyed the evidences of their own iniquity by fire, and that is the situation at the present time. (Hear, hear.)

THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

I propose to take up as briefly as I can the questions that have been advocated and suggested by the Conservative party of this province, some of which have been adopted by the other party; then to deal briefly with some of the acts of the Government, for which they deserve condemnation, concluding with a statement of our position to-day and asking for the endorsement of the people of the Province of Ontario.

Take the question first of all of agriculture. You will understand that I must use as few words as possible to-night, and I shall endeavor to do so. On the great question of agriculture it was news to me to learn the other day that away back in the forties that great British-American Imperialist, Sir John A. Macdonald, introduced a motion in the Legislature for the establishment of agricultural schools in the old Province of Canada, and so, as on many other questions, we found the Grand Old Man to the front, even on this question, which was practically unheard of then. Then we find that Hon. John Carling, as a member of the combination Ministry of 1867, first crystallized into legislative and Government action the desires and views of the people of the province with regard to agriculture, and if he did not establish he was at any rate the originator of the agricultural farm and college. (Applause.) My good friend, Mr. Andrew Broder, who preceded me in the representation of Dundas in the Legislature, and now sits as the honored representative of that county in the House of Commons, was the first man to propose in the Legislature of Ontario the establishment of the travelling dairy, which was adopted by the Government and through which they gained more or less popularity in the province.

Then, in 1889, the first year after my election to the Legislature, when Mr. Drury was Minister of Agriculture, in the last hours of the session, in the midst