

FACTS, NOT FICTION

Whitney's Assertions Disposed of by Clear
Statements Founded on Fact

The Pritchett Affidavits

Hon. J. M. Gibson, Attorney-General, speaking in the Local Legislature on March 12th, 1901, had not, he said, intended to add to the arguments from the Government side of the House or to deal in a general way with those of the Opposition. But his department had been subjected to more or less criticism by hon. gentlemen, and he would deal briefly with that phase of the debate. At the outset he wished to refer, though he had not heard the remarks, to some strictures which had fallen from the lips of the member for East Toronto. That hon. gentleman seemed to have the faculty of using extremely strong language when occasion required rather moderate terms. (Government applause.) He (Dr. Pyne) had used the strongest possible language in political condemnation of the Attorney-General, because he had concurred in the views of the officers of the department in regard to an application for increasing a reward offered by the city authorities for the discovery of a party or parties who had murdered a woman in Toronto. The department had freely given or offered the assistance of the Provincial detectives to the city police force. When the city, Mr. Gibson proceeded, the large and important chief city of the Province, with a large and efficient force of police, and having control of its own administration of justice, thought that the reward of \$250 which it had offered should be increased to \$500, it should have raised the reward itself. (Government applause.) He pointed out some of the dangers and difficulties surrounding the offering of large rewards in connection with attempts to bring criminals to justice. It was undesirable, he said, that the people should be taught to expect money payments to them before they could be induced to give information of serious crimes. (Government applause.) In the specific case which had been referred to he did not think that the department, after offering all possible assistance, should have been called upon to go any further, and the remarks of the member for East Toronto in that connection were entirely out of place.