

mother and then claimed that he ought to get off because he was an orphan.

#### THE REDISTRIBUTION

"Another question is the redistribution of the constituencies. Now, ladies and gentlemen, if we had listened to what any reasonable man might have proposed and had changed the constituencies of this province in a reasonable way, we would have undone all the work of previous administrations in gerrymandering the constituencies. But we decided to wait until the next Dominion census before undertaking so extensive a work. We concluded to let these people stay in their constituencies until the year 1910, when the next Dominion census will be taken. Think of what the gerrymander of the former governments meant! Take the constituency of North Grey, represented by David Creighton, editor of the Empire. The Mowat government—because it was the Mowat government then—determined to gerrymander this constituency so as to drive Mr. Creighton out of public life. The first time they were unsuccessful, but the second time they succeeded. Isn't that a thing to be proud of? Well, Mr. Chairman, we have left Mr. MacKay there. We have left him with that ill-gotten constituency in his pocket. We were determined that we would avoid even the appearance of unfair play. (Applause.) But he isn't very thankful. And, you know, you remember hearing about the election in North Grey, when a Conservative candidate was declared elected, and when there was a recount before a judge there were four ballots with a pencil mark in the form of a little cross. I have in my desk at home a statutory declaration of four men, one of them a scrutineer who acted at the poll where these four ballots were cast, stating that when these ballots were counted there were no such marks on them, and they were put loosely into the ballot box and sent away, and when the ballot box was opened before the court, they were sealed up in an envelope. This is in the constituency of the leader of the opposition, and we have allowed them to retain it. We changed only a few constituencies. (Here Mr. Whitney gave figures to show the results of the Grit gerrymander in returning a majority of Liberal members to the legislature while the popular vote showed a Conservative majority throughout the province.)

#### QUESTION OF LAW REFORM

"With regard to law reform: It is a

great pity that legal expenses in this province are so great. The remedy is this: I know the lawyers won't like it, but I fancy many of you in this audience will not care about that. Our proposition introduced by the resolution offered by my friend, the attorney-general, is in the direction of allowing, after a fair trial, just one appeal.

"We have done all these things and we have done more, which I have not time to specify. I am prepared to say without any fear of successful contradiction that the legislation we have enacted and the proposals we have brought in to the house to be shortly enacted, are a greater result than all that was done by the old government during the entire thirty years of their incumbency.

#### HE WANTS THEM BOTH

"Just a word or two with regard to the local situation. I expect you to re-elect Mr. Hendrie, and I am not going to waste any time on that, because I am strongly convinced that you will do your duty in that matter. I want you to elect Mr. Scott, who, I suppose, is now on the ocean, speeding here as fast as possible, to take a part in the great work of ratifying the proceedings of the government during the past three years. I hope there are some men here from north and south Wentworth. I hope there are men here who will go forward and do what they can for the election of my friend, Gordon C. Wilson, of the town of Dundas, and also for my friend, J. T. H. Regan, in South Wentworth. I believe if you do these things, you will do that which your conscience will approve of, and that which will cost you no uncertainty of thought or doubt as to your actions in respect to the time to come.

#### NOT HERE TO BRIBE

"Now, then, I'm not going away from here without saying something with regard to one question which has been under consideration here during the past year. It has been the method of the late government, especially during the last few years, to postpone bye-elections and general elections until they could contrive some way to deaden the consciousnesses of the people in the different constituencies and offer them bribes. Now, I know what has been said here, and I know what will be said in regard to the prospect of Hamilton getting a technical institute. I am not here to promise anything to the city of Hamilton. What-