

tised in the Conservative interest in South Ontario, nor of the systematic destruction of ballots in the election of '96, and figures were presented to show that in four ridings alone in that contest, where the Conservatives had the appointment of election officials, there were nearly a thousand spoiled ballots—917 — while in the same ridings in the elections of 1900, when the Liberals had the appointment of election officials, there were only 132 spoiled ballots. Was it to be inferred that under Liberal rule the people had become so much more intelligent as only to mis-mark and spoil a few ballots, or was it to be inferred that in the election of 1896 there was a scheme to deface and prevent the counting of ballots cast by Liberals? This Mr. Whitney did not condemn, but on the other hand it appeared that he raised a cry of election irregularities against

Liberals to cover up the iniquities of his own party. After referring to Mr. Whitney's non-committal attitude on education, and to his unfounded onslaught on Ontario school books, which were cheaper and better than those of any other country, Mr. Stratton appealed to the electors present to study the unsurpassed record of the Government, their present progressive policy, and to weigh their fitness for satisfactorily administering the affairs of this province, and if they did so, dispassionately and without prejudice, he had not the slightest fear that their ballots would be cast for Mr. Anderson, the capable candidate of the Liberal party, supporting the Liberal Government of Ontario. (Loud applause.)

The highly successful meeting closed with the usual cheers.

