

party would do any better. Indeed, judging by the past, they would do much worse. When the Conservatives were trying, but prevented by Sir Oliver Mowat, to give away to Quebec and Manitoba 100,000 square miles of territory belonging to Ontario, to get a little "rake of" before the spoil was divided, the Conservative Government of the Dominion gave away—it couldn't be called sold—to the faithful of the party, members of Parliament and party workers, 50,000 square miles of timber land at less than one cent an acre, and amongst those getting a slice was Mr. William Broder, a bosom friend and political chum of Mr. Whitney. Could that be called judiciously handling our timber resources? To describe these two transactions required rather strong language, and Mr. Whitney could not complain if his own words were borrowed to characterize these two "deals"—as the 'most phenomenal steal, the most heinous crime, and the greatest attempt at public robbery, ever attempted in this or any other country."

Our Crown Lands.

There was no feature of the Liberal Government which had been more persistently and unreasonably assailed than its relation to the Crown Lands—more especially its timber policy. They had been accused of wastefulness, of extravagance, of squandering the Provincial resources, of spending their capital. There was no single Department which had been more judiciously and cautiously administered with an eye both to the present and future requirements of the people. The management of the timber resources of the Province of Ontario would challenge comparison with that of any state or province on the continent, as

to the completeness with which the public interests were safeguarded, and the extent of the revenue secured in proportion to the privileges granted to the public.

The policy of the Government as regarded the forests had been as in other departments, a progressive policy. It had been developed step by step as conditions changed and new exigencies arose. They owed no thanks to the Opposition, who had not contributed anything in the way of constructive suggestions. Intricate problems had frequently arisen owing to the advance of settlement, to international relations and to the growth of the market, and the possible danger of the exhaustion of the supply, but the Government had boldly faced and settled them all.

The accusation of the reckless destruction of the forests was an old one. It was a favourite Opposition cry a generation ago. Every timber sale was greeted with the outcry, "Oh, you are devastating the forests; you are living on your capital." The latter expression had become one of the stock Opposition cries. It was heard regularly every session. Now what was the "capital" of a community but its productive capacity? The land of by far the greater proportion of settled Ontario and of a considerable area of New Ontario, as everyone knew,

Could be Turned to Better Account

in raising wheat and cattle, cheese and butter, than by letting it remain timbered. So long as the soil was fit for agriculture and the settler was waiting to follow up the lumberman, making the country many times more productive than before, they were surely husbanding and increasing the real "capital" of the country by its clearance.

But there was another point over-