

and Christian world for the last two years, it was felt the Government might do something with regard to revising the election law, and I introduced a bill which I had prepared with a great deal of care, and a day or so afterwards the Attorney-General of Ontario, who should have done it earlier, introduced a bill, and the bill was a sheet of blank paper without one word written or printed on it, and when, under the rules of the House, the time came for moving the second reading of my bill, the second reading being the decisive stage, after which no bill is ever heard of unless it is passed, they endeavored to prevent me from moving the second reading of my bill. They urged me for 15 or 20 minutes to let it go back, and the Attorney-General's bill and my bill would be considered together. The Attorney-General was going to introduce a bill, they said—and, by the way, I think the bill had not been introduced up to that time. I refused to do it unless the pledge was given me that I would have an opportunity to move the second reading of my bill before the other one. An opportunity was given me, and the two bills were considered together, and, as always occurs when the Government have a majority, Mr. Gibson's bill was carried with some modifications, and Mr. Gibson's bill, in all respects of importance, was an exact copy of my bill. (Applause.) I should not, perhaps, have said it was an exact copy, but the main provisions of my bill were all there, with just enough few unimportant changes to keep it from being recognized as one which had Mr. Whitney's name on the back. And they still say we have no policy of any kind!

Before I leave this question I want to read to you, with your permission, what somebody else says with regard to this question of my attitude towards bribery. I read from the Farmers' Sun:—

"Mr. Whitney has done his share toward strengthening the law against electoral corruption, and it is to be regretted that the Government stood in the way of the more stringent legislation he desired to have placed on the statute book. Measures for the suppression of electoral corruption are important, but we hope that Mr. Whitney will not confine his reforming energies to them."

#### THE TIMBER QUESTION.

Now, the great timber question is one that would require the whole of this evening to treat it properly, but I shall endeavor to deal with it as briefly as possible, and at the same time bring out the salient points in relation to it. The policy of Ontario Conservatives has always been twofold with regard to timber: one was to take care of it and conserve it—if you choose to use that word; the other was to investigate all about it, find out what we had; see what measures were necessary to conserve it, and see how it could be disposed of to the best advantage—to see how it could be held and used and conserved into bringing out the greatest results to the people of the Province of Ontario. (Hear, hear.) That has always been our attitude, as I shall prove to you in a very few minutes. In 1886 Mr. Meredith, then the leader used this language:—

"Vast areas of the timber lands of the province are placed under license without the assent of the Assembly. No attempt has been made to prevent by proper conditions the logs cut on our timber lands from being exported instead of being manufactured in this country and practically nothing has been done looking to the development of our mineral wealth or the husbanding of our timber resources."

In 1887 Mr. Meredith demanded that a provision be inserted in the timber leases requiring all logs taken from Crown lands to be sawn or manufactured here. The proposition was resisted. "The Government," said Mr. Ross, who is now Premier, "was prepared to sell timber to the highest bidder. It was not prepared to impose such conditions of sale as would debar American millionaires from paying high prices for Canadian limits." "The question," said Mr. Hardy, "has been considered by the Government, and they have decided to let the Dominion Government take the responsibility of the foreign