

the Liberal party was as anxious as the rank and file of the Conservative party for honest government; clean government that would respond to the will of the people. Even the leaders of the Liberal party, when they took the steps which ultimately led to the occurrences, little contemplated the conditions they were bringing about.

And how did these conditions come about? It would be a grand thing for the province if the black records could be wiped out, obliterated from the pages of history. If Premier Hardy had only resigned his office, when he had a majority of but one! If he had only been allowed to exercise his judgment, instead of being forced to bow to the will of the other members of the government! If he had not been overruled by his colleagues—if Hardy had had his way—these black pages of history would never have been written. Then came Premier Ross, as Mr. Hardy's successor. Liberals and Conservatives alike would say that it would be a grand thing if Mr. Ross had found that he ought to lay down the reins of office, when he had only one of a majority in the house. If he had dropped the reins, or handed them over to the Conservative leader to take up, and carry on the business of the province! Would that not have been a grand thing for the Liberal party, and the history of the province?

#### A DREADFUL TALE

What did it mean to the history of the province? What about the election trials that took place between 1893 and 1905? The electors of the province would have been spared that dreadful story of the things that disgraced the province! They would have been spared the disgraceful story of West Elgin and North Waterloo. These things would not have been affixed to the record of a political party.

Mr. Hanna referred to the bringing in of Hug-the-Machine Preston, and to what he tried to do in order to get a sufficient majority for the government to work with. The Grit government finally could not let go when it wanted to. And the final result of this sad beginning was the overthrow of the most corrupt administration Ontario had ever seen.

It was only right to ask the members of the government, those to whom the faith of the province had been pinned, those who were entrusted with the carrying on of the work of the province, how had they carried out their

promises. It was the duty of the government to give an accounting and to answer the rightful questions.

One of the pledges made by Mr. Whitney when in opposition was that he would, if elected, do away with the numbered ballot. Was there a Conservative in the province, was there any fair-minded man in the province, who would not say that it was a good thing? Before the Whitney government became an actuality there had been complaint made on every political platform at almost every meeting, about the numbered ballot, and the lack of the secrecy that was supposed to be the essential of a ballot. Mr. Whitney had said that he would do away with that numbered ballot. The first act of the government at the first session of the legislature was to fulfil that pledge, to do away with that numbered ballot. (Applause.) Had Mr. Whitney redeemed that pledge? He surely had.

#### ENFORCING THE LAW

Another promise that Mr. Whitney had made to the people of Ontario when he was still in opposition was that if he were elected he would see that the law was enforced. And that was a Whitney promise—the kind that were worth their weight in gold. If the Ross government had enforced the law as Mr. Whitney said he would do, and had done, there would have been no election scandals.

Hon. Mr. Hanna recalled an instance where the late Hon. J. W. St. John stood up in the house at Toronto and charged the Ross government with allowing open violation of the law. Mr. St. John had told about a bucket shop in West Toronto junction that drained the pockets, sapped the morals, of the young men of Toronto 365 days in every year. The attorney-general of the Ross government said that the province was helpless, that this bucket shop had a Dominion charter of some fishing or sporting character, and that a great constitutional question was involved. The complaint was repeated as to Fort Erie, Windsor, with the same answer. Finally, the attorney-general instructed a lawyer to start proceedings to determine what this great constitutional question was, a suit which would be decided when his grandchildren were men and women.

But in the meantime came the change of government in 1905. The premier was himself attorney-general for a time. One day a couple of cabs containing detectives started out from