

Honest Elections Restored

THE WHITNEY GOVERNMENT ABOLISHES THE NUMBERED BALLOT AND PUTS AN END TO POLITICAL FRAUDS

As is well known, for years before the present Government came into office elections were improperly manipulated and all sorts of offences were committed to defeat the wishes of the people. Sir James Whitney immediately put a stop to such practices. The result is that not one election since he took office has been contested, and not one ballot of the hundreds of thousands that have been cast since he became Prime Minister has been disputed.

At the outset the numbered ballot was abolished, and the people were given a secret ballot, with heavy penalties for any violation of it.

The new ballot adopted is one that cannot be manipulated, and severe penalties have been enacted, including imprisonment in some cases, to stop offences against the ballot. Corrupt practices have been rendered punishable by very heavy penalties.

In order to afford additional protection to the people, a law was passed at the last session of the Legislature prohibiting political subscriptions by corporations, by Government contractors and by the holders of liquor licenses.

Under former Governments the constituencies were so arranged that the minority of the people elected the majority of the Members of the Legislature. Thus, in 1886, while the Conservatives had a popular majority of 9,869, the Liberals had thirty more seats in the Legislature. Again, in 1902, although there was a Conservative majority of 7,333 in the votes cast, the Liberals had a majority of four in the House. In order to overcome this injustice, redistributions were necessary, and have also been rendered necessary by the growth of population in New Ontario and other parts of the province.