

was that he was not a policeman, but he took pains to warn the people against committing breaches of the election law. If the Attorney-General had believed that the story was true, and if it had been in his power to stop the Minnie M., and he had not done so, he would have been recreant to his trust. The Premier emphatically and unequivocally denied all knowledge of the Minnie M. and the men concerned in her trip prior to the time the story was published in the papers, when the evidence was given in the election court. Within recent years, the Premier continued, the Conservatives had been guilty of personation in West Elgin and North Perth. Two blacks did not make a white; Conservative offences did not mitigate Liberals' wrongdoing. The Tory cry was that the Government ought to be dismissed. His argument was that the election courts show that Tories were guilty of twice as many frauds upon electors as the Liberals were. (Applause.)

The Brawling Brood.

In 1884, before he had been many weeks in the Legislature, an American, in conference with some Conservatives in the city of Toronto, had proposed to bribe some members of the Legislature to get a certain timber policy adopted, and had paid \$1,500 into the hands of Mr. Balfour, afterwards Speaker of the House, who had brought the plot to light. Mr. Fraser characterized the plotters as "the brawling brood of bribers." (Applause.) The then manager of *The Mail* was concerned in that plot; it was hatched out under the eaves of *The Mail* office, and yet if Ananias was regenerated it would be found he was outdone in the perfervid language in the columns of *The Mail* that now denounced the Liberals. (Laughter and applause.) Then in Montreal recently what was the conspiracy with which the names of Mr. Blair, Mr. Graham and others had been mentioned?

The Premier indignantly repudiated the insinuation that he was a party to the trick ballot-box plot in Hastings and Frontenac. They might as well charge him with the assassination of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley, or allege that he had been guilty of firing a shot at the Governor-General. "I want to say to the Opposition in this campaign," said the Premier, "that no language of mine will be spared to expose the arrant hypocrisy of the men who claim a right to attain to the Government benches on the ground of electoral purity. They have no ground at all for such a claim. They produce nothing in the way of legislation; they are not a constructive party; they are not in sympathy with progressive Ontario."

The Conservative Conference.

Sir John Macdonald had weaknesses, but he was a large man, with a large view of affairs; so with Sir Charles Tupper. If the Conservatives had met in Toronto as the Liberals did they would have formulated a policy. They had a conference, and invited all classes to attend; they invited Liberals; they thought they were going to rope