

THE WEST ELGIN CASE.

Mr. Foy.—There was another set of ballots that my friend there alludes to that were wanted at another trial and the case was called: the ballots were not produced, but Mr. MacNish gave a confession, and he was unseated. He gave a confession seriously implicating his own party. I happen to have it with me, and it is such interesting reading, that I might be pardoned if I were to give it to you once more. This is a statement signed by Mr. MacNish, witnessed by his counsel and signed by his counsel in which he says: "We beg to advise you that Mr. MacNish has discussed at length with his solicitors"—it was not an off-hand confession, it was deliberate, he had gone all over it with his solicitors first—"contained in the petition which has been filed against his return as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for West Elgin, and that they have to a considerable extent investigated the charges contained therein, and other matters which have come to their knowledge in connection with the election; and the subscribers hereto make the following statements and admissions respecting the same. First, that a large number of persons were specially sent into the constituency by men working on behalf of the Liberal party!" Sent in from outside places; it was not merely a local fight in which some of the too enthusiastic might in their excitement have overstepped the law, but these were men sent into the constituency by men working on behalf of the Liberal party for the express purpose of taking part for Mr. MacNish in the election. "And we believe that fraudulent and corrupt means were used by several of such persons to secure his election; that several of the said persons illegally and without authority acted as deputy-returning officers." Just think of that; that they had actually dared to take a semi-judicial office, a man sworn to do his duty, to hold the scale of justice even between the parties, men whom you trust, when you go in there you see a returning officer, and you assume he has been appointed properly, and you give your ballots without fear, and then you find that this man has been fraudulently appointed and that he is there for the express and deliberate purpose of cheating you out of your votes, cheating the constituency out of its member, and returning to power by deceit and trickery a Government that does not deserve to be there. (Applause.) Then the MacNish confession proceeds with several other things that I need not trouble you with, except this: "Sixth, that a large number of votes cast for Mr. McDiarmid were in some corrupt manner manipulated, whereby the result of the election was rendered doubtful, and that in this connection the voting at Ashdown and Middlemarch, and several divisions in St. Thomas where strangers were acting as deputy-returning officers merit special mention."

Mr. Ross in his speech at Whitby alluded to West Elgin. He said: "There will be an election at West Elgin; we have a majority there; that is easy." Well, Mr. Ross miscalculated. All the Liberals of the riding of West Elgin were not Spartans who obeyed his word of command. There were independent Liberals in that constituency who saw the wrong and iniquity and did right, and by a fair majority sent Mr. MacNish back to retirement and elected Mr. McDiarmid in his place. (Applause.) Mr. Ross said "we have a majority in that riding, we will carry it, that is easy;" but he counted without his host; he counted not that amongst the Liberals of that riding were many honest and fair-minded men who would not swallow things of that kind, and I trust that in the coming election Mr. Ross will be shown that the honest Liberals of the different ridings throughout this country will not be at his back and will stand by the country and not by their party. (Applause.)

THE CONSERVATIVE LEADER.

Now I find that the time allotted to me is up, and I will have but very few more words to say to you. We will have the pleasure of presently hearing our distinguished leader, Mr. Whitney. (Applause.) He is a man of whom we are