

An Honest Government.

I want this note to go to the country—that every member of the Liberal Administration, that has been in power since 1871, is able to stand before the most critical court in the land, before any committee of the House. As I have often done in days gone by, I challenge our opponents to show that the Administration has been corrupt, that we have traded in our positions for political support, that we have bartered public contracts for election funds, or that we have done anything that will bring a feeling of shame to the most sensitive conscience. That is our challenge to the country to-day. (Loud cheers.) We say that after 34 years' service it is a challenge you will admit that I can make with some pride. So that when we said in 1896 it was time for a change we made out a case. There is no case made out in the present instance. (Cheers.)

Mr. Whitney's Obstruction.

More than that, while Mr. Whitney had not been constructive he had in many cases been obstructive, and that was about as useless a function as an Opposition could discharge. As illustrations of this fact, Mr. Ross said that when an asylum was wanted at Brockville to accommodate the lunatics who were confined in the jails, a project towards which one would have thought his humane instincts would have responded, the Government carried it in face of a resolution negating it. Mr. Whitney opposed the erection of a normal school at London, in face of his utterances with regard to education, and when the Government proposed to appoint an officer to look after the children of indigent and degraded homes in our cities, a work that appealed, he ventured to say, to the heart of every man present, Mr. Whitney opposed it. As a result of that legislation 1,200 children had been placed in foster homes in Ontario, where they are cared for as carefully as if they were the natural born children of the people with whom they reside. Mr. Whitney also opposed the proposal to appoint a municipal auditor to protect the municipalities from defalcation of their officers, and when the Government proposed to establish a farm near Port Arthur to demonstrate the suitability of the soil and climate of that portion of Ontario to agriculture, Mr. Whitney opposed it.

Good Measures Opposed.

The Government had wanted to develop or increase the knowledge of the fruit-growers of Ontario, who were engaged in a very important industry, with exports of a million barrels of apples last year, but when they wanted to train the farmers in spraying, Mr. Whitney was opposed to it. Similarly he had opposed the appointment of a clerk of forestry, who was desired to assist in the care of our great heritage of \$125,000,000 of pine and hardwood, which yields the Province \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000 a year, and give us a perpetual harvest therefrom. He had many similar resolutions, which showed