

them because a private prosecutor, anxious either to get half the penalties or else to furnish the Conservative party with a little kudos, or anxious to forestall the Government, had gone to the Judges at Osgoode Hall, once or oftener, had even gone before the time was up at which summonses could issue, to apply for summonses. As soon as the time was up the Attorney-General made inquiry and found that the summonses had already been issued. When the private prosecutor applied for funds to carry on the case, the Attorney-General replied that, having taken the case out of his hands, he could go on and prosecute himself, but that he would give instructions to the County Crown Attorney to prosecute, who, having been concerned in the election, failed to act, and Judge Osler said he was quite right in doing so. Mr. Watson, K.C., had acted for the defence; he did so on his own responsibility. He did not mention this to reflect upon his predecessors, but merely to quote the facts. When did the prosecutions begin? Only when he got into office. He had not been there a year and a half when 47 of these offenders, Liberals as well as Conservatives, and he believed more Liberals than Conservatives, were tried for corrupt practices and fined from \$200 to \$800 each, and some of them went to the common jail. He only did his duty in this. The Soo case stood for trial on January 24, when two Judges could be got to try it. The Conservatives had bungled the case in their haste to get election powder. Since he had been Premier the Government had prosecuted 17 men for election offences, and summonses were out for four others who would be tried in January, making 51 in all. The Conservative party at Toronto or Ottawa had never yet prosecuted anyone for corrupt practices. As well might Mr. Whitney be held responsible for the four corrupt practices at the Soo as that he should be held responsible for that done by the Liberals. Mr. Miscampbell, the present Conservative organizer, had committed three personal offences against the election law, and, came within an ace of being disqualified. He had paid money in three different cases to men to come in and organize. "You wonder," said the Premier, "that our choler rises with indignation sometimes when we speak of these horrid, vile, base charges that are as foundationless as the dreams of the night."

### The Minnie M. Voyage.

Mr. Ross spoke of the Minnie M. and observed that as Mr. Miscampbell had been the commodore of Clergue's fleet of eighteen vessels, the Minnie M.'s full name must have been Minnie Miscampbell. (Laughter.) He deplored the exploit of the personators, and pointed out that the Conservatives had planned a similar expedition on the Ruth, but it had been stopped because she was a tug and not licensed to carry passengers. The Minnie M. could not be stopped because she was sailing from an American port. The Attorney-General, it was claimed, had information given him regarding her intention to sail, in the shape of a letter which was read at a public meeting. His answer