

### **The Liberal Party Always Improving the Election Laws.**

The Liberal Government in Ontario during its twenty-eight years of office, has been specially diligent in passing legislation, improving the Election Law and making more and more stringent the law against corrupt practices.

Before Confederation, any person guilty of corrupt practices was liable to imprisonment as well as to a fine.

In the several sessions after Confederation, Sandfield Macdonald changed the law and dropped the punishment of imprisonment, leaving bribers simply subject to a fine.

In the session of 1870-1 Mr. Blake moved strong resolutions in favor of punishing bribery by imprisonment; which resolutions were voted down by the Conservative majority.

Since then, there have been a number of amendments to the law in the direction of making punishment of bribery more severe, and in 1887 the judges were enabled to impose imprisonment for twelve months in default of payment of fines.

In 1894 the offence of personation was made liable to imprisonment and in 1899, imprisonment for six months, in addition to a fine of \$200, was imposed on any person injuring or destroying or aiding or abetting in injuring or destroying poll books, etc.

The Liberal party was the author of

### **The Ballot Law.**

The electors of Ontario need perhaps to be reminded that voting by ballot is the result of Liberal legislation in spite of Conservative opposition.

In 1874 the Mowat Government introduced the new system in Ontario, and in the same year the Mackenzie Government introduced it for the Dominion in lieu of the old plan of open voting, which gave rise to great abuses, intimidation and disorderly conduct.

The Conservative party, true to its reactionary principles, resisted the ballot law as long as it was possible, and as soon as it was instituted as the new system, set forces at work to evade its verdicts by stealing constituencies.

### **History of the Ballot Act.**

In the Session of 1873 Mr. Clarke of Wellington, afterwards Speaker of the House and Clerk of the House, introduced a Ballot Bill which came up for a second reading on the 6th of February. This Bill was strongly opposed by the leading Conservatives of the House, a six months' hoist being moved by the Conservative Premier. Among those who voted for the rejection of the Bill were such men as John Sandfield Macdonald, Boulter, M. C. Cameron, Meredith Monteith, Rykert and Tooley. Sir Oliver Mowat having