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TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR | EIGHT PAGES—TUESDAY MORNING MARCH 17 1903—EIGHT PAGES | ONE CENT

Stratton's Resignation Announced

Sent in Immediately After Exposure

Under Consideration By the Cabinet

Statement Wrung From the Accused Minister by the Member for West York—Date of Division Not to Be Announced Until Premier Lays Instructions on Table.

Provincial Secretary Stratton has offered the government his resignation. It has not been accepted. Premier Ross asserts that its acceptance is still under consideration. This new factor was injected into the case by the Hon. Secretary's statement under pressure during the debate on the question to refer the charges to a commission. The announcement followed the vigorous arraignment of Mr. Stratton and the government by Mr. St. John, because he retained his seat in the cabinet while under such a serious accusation. Then it was that Mr. Stratton declared with some degree of hesitancy that he had offered his resignation immediately after the charges were made. He failed to mention why that fact had not been made public at the time. The liveliest comment has been indulged in daily as to the motives that could prevent the accused member declaring his innocence, presenting his resignation and marching out of the House until his innocence was established, refusing to attend further cabinet meetings in the meantime. Premier Ross's reply in response to the query if the resignation was still under consideration by the cabinet, was not made with the readiness that usually marks that eminent parliamentarian in animated debate. The absence of his usual vigor was remarked. This new chapter was the feature of the day's proceedings, and the impression was well defined that a bad matter had been made indefinitely worse by the tardy announcement of the resignation of the leading figure in the Gamey charge of corruption. Apparently Mr. Stratton was shamed into an admission, which, coming at a time less remote from the exposure, would have done much toward clearing the atmosphere.

Mr. St. John laid stress on the spectacle of a minister accused of a serious offence sitting in the House and deliberating upon the constitution of the court which was to try him. A series of taunts were projected across the floor of the House by the member for West York, and finally, the Provincial Secretary, who has not been heard since the House met last Tuesday, arose to his feet.

His speech was brief. He had handed his resignation to his leader immediately after the charges were made. This announcement was received with government desk-thumping, the member for West York did not expect to be informed of this step, but he recovered himself quickly, and enquired of the Premier if the resignation had been accepted.

While he remained in an attitude of suspense, the Premier rather haltingly replied that it had not.

Mr. St. John was about to proceed with his argument, when he was coached by his leader to enquire whether the resignation was still under consideration.

The answer was not unhesitatingly given, but it was given, nevertheless. "Of course it is under consideration, if it has not been accepted," came from the Premier.

Mr. St. John had the floor over two hours. He made a vigorous onslaught on the government. He endeavored to convict the government of playing false to the principles of Liberalism by taking the question of the honor of a member of the legislature out of its own hands, and his best point was that the principles for which the opposition was fighting to the last ditch was adopted in the Liberal platform in 1893, and a speech of Hon. David Mills, a stalwart of Liberalism, was quoted in support. Mr. St. John showed that the powers of a judicial commission were limited; that it would have no power to compel a witness to answer questions, if the answer would tend to incriminate himself, and that, in short, such a commission would be a farce. The West Elgin Commission was cited, to show the force of the argument. That commission failed to find anything except that some ballots which would have proven something, had been destroyed. The commission was constituted to investigate the conduct of the returning officer, the deputy returning officers and the poll clerks. "What a farce!" exclaimed the speaker.

An investigation into the Gamey charges, such as the leader of the opposition had proposed, would be full and searching, because the Conservatives could be depended upon to get at the facts.

What About Prosecution?

Mr. St. John demanded of the government what steps they had taken to prosecute the "infamous scoundrels" who had dragged the name of the Province down. Had any steps been taken to prevent the Sullivans from leaving the country? Something was said in this connection, of the long line of "organizers" who had done work for the Liberal party in the past.

The custody of the Gamey papers was the subject of some cross-firing between the two leaders. Mr. Ross expressed some concern for the safety of the documents. Would the leader of the opposition kindly place them on the Speaker's table? The leader of the opposition wouldn't.

Then ensued another dramatic incident in the eventful history of the tale unfolded by R. R. Gamey on Wednesday last. Mr. Whitney returned the package in which the evidence was sealed to Mr. Gamey, and the latter at once left the chamber to consult his legal adviser. Mr. Ross wanted to have the documents placed in possession of the House, because no one knew where they would be when wanted.

Mr. Foy replied that the accuser could be depended on to produce his evidence at the proper time. If the material with which he hoped to substantiate his charges were not at hand the onus would be on the accuser. He (Gamey) did not want to be in the position of an accuser, having to ask the accused to produce the evidence of guilt.

The Premier was not able to promise when the instructions which are to govern the conduct of the case will be laid on the table. He was pressed to give information on the subject, Mr. Whitney refusing to say how soon the debate would be concluded until he knew how far the inquiry would go.

Packed Galleries.

The galleries were packed during the afternoon, and several stalwart policemen did duty on the doors to prevent any undue crowding. Many chairs on both sides of the floor were vacant, the members not having returned from their week-end visits home. Hon. E. J. Davis remained at King to look after the adjustment of his fire loss. Hon. John Dryden was at Strathroy attending the convention of the Western Dairymen's Association, and Hon. F. R. Latchford was also out of town. On the opposition side there were also many absentees, but the members will gather in strong force to-day in anticipation of a vote. Major Hendrie of Hamilton has been ordered by his physicians to take a trip south for his health's sake, and it will probably be some days before he can return to the House.

To-day E. J. B. Pense (Kingston) will reply for the government. I. B. Lucas (Centre Grey) and J. P. Downey (South Wellington) will speak for the opposition.

After reading the prayers the Speaker announced that in future no one would be allowed to occupy seats on the floor of the House without tickets, which tickets could only be secured at the request of a member of the government or the leader of the opposition. It would also be found necessary to keep the passage in rear of the ladies' gallery clear to admit of easy access to the press gallery.

Premier Not Ready.

Mr. Whitney enquired what were the instructions to be laid before the House as to the commission to be appointed, and if the names of the members of the commission would be given.

The Premier replied that he was not quite ready, but he hoped they would be brought down in time. He asked if the leader of the opposition was ready to deliver the documents placed in his hands by the member for Manitoulin into the hands of the Speaker. He moved that the documents be placed in the hands of the Speaker.

In reply Mr. Whitney said there was no basis or foundation for such a motion. The Premier had declared that the House should not deal with the question, and Mr. Whitney asserted that he had no option in the matter of the documents. They had been handed to him without his having any knowledge, direct or otherwise, that any such intimation would be made to him. Mr. Whitney declared that the documents had been sealed by him in the presence of Mr. Matheson and Mr. Gamey, and he returned the package to those members with a desire to know if it was as it was when sealed by him. The package was declared to be all right, and Mr. Whitney then returned it to the member for Manitoulin.

The Premier requested to know if the member for Manitoulin would produce the papers, but Mr. Whitney replied that Mr. Gamey had gone to consult his solicitor.

Safety of the Papers.

Mr. Ross argued that the documents should be in the hands of the Speaker. Nobody knew where they would be in a few days. He moved that the papers be impounded.

Mr. Whitney: Let him put it in writing and we will deal with it.

Mr. Ross: Then my honorable friend proposes delay.

The Premier went on to say that if the leader of the opposition desired to expedite matters he would take his (Ross') advice. The leader of the opposition should endeavor to co-operate with the government in this matter.

Mr. Whitney suggested that if the Premier would change his motion for a reference to a committee of the House he might be disposed to meet him. The Premier appeared to be concerned about the safety of the documents. If the documents should disappear the onus would rest with the accuser.

Mr. Ross: We don't want them to disappear.

Mr. Whitney declared his willingness to co-operate with the government in bringing out the facts, and he would consent to lay the papers in the hands of the Speaker if the Premier would allow a reference to a committee of the House.

Should Be Impounded.

Attorney-General Gibson said it was not a question whether the case should be tried, but it was a question whether the documents and the money which form the basis of the investigation should be allowed to disappear. This material had been solemnly, dramatically and theatrically handed to the leader of the opposition, but the moment the Premier asked that the papers be handed over he (Whitney) returned them to the source from which the charges had come. The matter was before the House. There were strong reasons why the documents should be impounded. When the charges of bribery were investigated in 1884 the documents were in possession of a committee of the House and were transferred to a royal commission by that committee. Mr. Gibson thought that Mr. Whitney had assumed an awkward and serious position.

Would Not Be Empty-Handed.

J. J. Foy (South Toronto) followed. He declared that the Attorney-General was drawing his conclusions on a wrong assumption of facts. The government had introduced a resolution to refer the charges to a commission, and if that resolution prevailed the member for Manitoulin would be called before the commission to substantiate his charges. Mr. Gamey did not propose to go before that commission empty-handed. He wanted to go there to prove what he had charged, and to be able to produce the papers and not call on any one else to produce them. The member for Manitoulin should be in possession of his facts when called upon to make his charges good.

St. John of West York.

J. W. St. John (West York) rose to speak amid opposition applause. This was a very serious business and the facts revealed in the last few days had caused every member of the House and every citizen of Ontario to hang their heads in shame at the dishonor and discredit that might accrue to the country.

He personally admired his honorable friend from East Lambton and the manner in which he had on Friday attacked the leader of the opposition. He was the proprietor of a newspaper, and in column after column he had attacked the Minister of Agriculture for keeping a cattle farm in Dalota. He (Mr. Pettypiece) said he would insist upon Mr. Dryden's resigning his position as a member of the cabinet. Yet he came to the House and made no mention of it but sat calm, judicial, dumb as an oyster. He came and did not speak out to chal-

Continued on Page 2.

SPEAKERS OF THE AFTERNOON.

Debate Will Be Opened by Member Pense for the Government.

The debate to-day will be argued by Mr. E. J. B. Pense, Liberal, and Messrs. I. B. Lucas and J. P. Downey will speak for the Conservatives.

E. J. B. Pense, M.L.A. for Kingston, is also a journalist and proprietor of The Kingston Daily Whig. He was born in Kingston June 3, 1848, being the son of Michael L. Pense, and was educated at the Academy in his native city. For six years he sat in the City Council as an alderman, and at other periods held the positions of chairman of the Public School Board, chairman of the Collegiate Institute Board, chairman of the General Hospital and president of the Women's Medical College. He was elected Mayor of Kingston in 1881. An Anglican in religion he was treasurer of the Diocese of Kingston, and a delegate to the general Synod of the church. Mr. Pense was a member of the last legislature, succeeding the Hon. William Harty, and was re-elected in May.

J. P. Downey, M.L.A. for South Wellington, was born in the Township of Puslinch in 1865, and is, therefore, 38 years of age. He is one of the bright young men of Canadian Journalism, and possesses considerable platform ability. Mr. Downey received his early education in the school of his father, the late Patrick Downey, and embarked in journalism in 1880, becoming associated with The Guelph Herald in 1880, rising rapidly to the position of editor. With the exception of three years he has been connected with The Herald. That period was spent in travel, Mr. Downey making a tour of the world, and spending some time in Australia and returning to Canada by way of Europe. He is exceptionally well informed on general topics, and particularly on Canadian politics. During the last provincial elections in Manitoba Mr. Downey took the platform on behalf of Hugh John Macdonald, and is credited with having done good work. In the election of May 29 last he defeated Col. Mutrie by 227 votes.

I. B. Lucas has the distinction of being the only member of the present legislature who was elected by acclamation in May last. In the election of 1898, when he first presented himself as a candidate for legislative honors he was returned by a majority of about 1000. He is a strong debater, and a decided acquisition to the ranks of the opposition.

STRONG RESOLUTION IS PASSED

Time Arrived When Government Should Take Over Telegraph and Telephone Systems.

That it is the opinion of this meeting that the municipality of Toronto Junction, thru its Council, should at once take steps to instal a municipal telephone system;

And that, in the opinion of this meeting, the time has arrived when the Dominion of Canada, thru its government, should take over the telegraph and telephone systems of this country, in connection with the postoffice, as in England; that the government should at least own all telephone trunk lines, and that these trunk lines be at the service of any and all municipal company or individual lines; that in any telephone law passed at the forthcoming session, provision should be made, (1) for the regulation of all telephone tolls by the government; (2) against any discrimination, and insisting on equal charges in all places of equal size; (3) compelling all companies to give an interchange of service at tolls approved of by the government; (4) that no rebates be allowed; and (5) that, at any time the state may assume control and ownership of all telephone services; that a copy of this resolution be handed to our member in parliament, Mr. Arch. Campbell, for presentation to the government at Ottawa.

This resolution moved by W. A. Skeans, seconded by S. Ryding, was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Toronto Junction Town Council last night.

VERY CHEAP FLOWERS.

Roses 25c per doz., Tulips 25c per doz. Daffodils 20c per doz. All absolutely fresh. College Flower Shop, 445 Yonge St. Phone N. 1192.

THREE BURNED TO DEATH.

Terrible Tragedy at Icelandic Settlement in Manitoba.

Winnipeg, March 16.—News of a terrible tragedy comes from Huansa, the Icelandic settlement at Lake Winnipeg, some 40 miles north of Selkirk. On Saturday night the residence of Steffin Oddlifsson caught fire while the inmates were asleep. Oddlifsson escaped with his wife and two children, but returned to rescue two smaller children, and all three were burned to death, nothing but the charred bones remaining next morning. The wife is crazed with grief. Deceased was one of the most highly respected Icelanders in the district.

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Did you ever try the top barrel?

Try the Decanter at Thomas.

SANDERSON'S MOUNTAIN DEW SCOTCH. Fill your flask with it

TO-DAY IN TORONTO.

Prince of Wales Lodge, I.O.O.F., at home, Oddfellows' Hall, Parkdale, 8 p.m.
House of Industry Board, 4 p.m.
I.P.B.S. banquet, McConkey's, 8 p.m.
Mr. Newell's Bible classes, Massey Hall.
Lenten service, St. James' Cathedral, 12:30 p.m.
Service of praise, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 8 p.m.
Rev. Carey Ward on "Australia," St. James' Cathedral S.S., 8.15.
A.O.U.W. reception, Association Hall, 8 p.m.
51 Halton Boys, Temple Building, 8 p.m.

HE WOULD LIKE TO PUT IT TO SLEEP.

HEAD OF THE HOUSE: Dear me, if I can only get it to work for a few weeks, what a blessing to a sorely afflicted family it will be!

AUTOMATIC BABY'S NURSE SINGS TO AND ROCKS INFANTS.

A Swiss mechanic has invented an automatic baby's nurse, which will, if it proves practical, save fathers from walking floors at night and permit of mothers leaving their infants to themselves. The apparatus is attached to a cradle. If the baby cries air waves cause specially arranged wires to operate a phonograph, which sings a lullaby, while, simultaneously, clockwork is released and rocks the cradle. When the crying stops the wires cease to vibrate and the cradle stops rocking.

Grand Jury After Bell Co.

Climax of Telephone Fight

On Judge Morgan's Order

Contest of Farmers for Fair Treatment in Rural Districts Finally Lands Monopoly in Serious Lines—Indictment Confronts President Sise.

SEQUEL OF LOCUST HILL DEPOT ROW

Judge Morgan announced yesterday his consent to the Crown Attorney laying a complaint against the Bell Telephone Company with the York County grand jury. This is a sequel of the famous fight of Whitevale farmers to get a telephone from their rural line put in Locust Hill depot of the C. P. R. The case will be presented to-day. This consent of His Honor followed the submission to him by Crown Attorney Dewart of the law and evidence in the famous case which has clustered around the vigorous fight of the Whitevale farmers for fair treatment. A delegation of farmers from around Locust Hill, headed by President Alfpheus Hoover of the rural company, was in Toronto yesterday, watching the latest developments in the case. A number of the farmers who were denied telephonic connection with Locust Hill station, thru the machinations of the Bell monopoly, will appear before the grand jury. The evidence taken at the trial of President Sise will also be submitted in making out a prima facie case.

Will Be Several Indictments.

It is not certain that indictments will be found against both President Sise and his company, but the indications are that separate charges will be made against both in order that the case may be thoroly tested. Under the Criminal Code, which the Bell and its chief are charged with having violated, the penalty against the individual is $4000 fine and two years' imprisonment, and against the corporation $10,000 fine. It is significant that many counties thruout Canada are awaiting the result of the prosecutions here to institute similar proceedings against the telephone monopoly. The Towns of Port Arthur and Fort William have consulted attorneys, and have their case ready to file as soon as the case here is disposed of.

Others Will Prosecute.

Every county where an independent line has been refused a railroad depot connection in Canada, because of the existence of the exclusive contract with the Bell, has a criminal action against the Bell monopoly, as well as against the railroad company and the officials refusing the same. It is not the intention of the people, as far as present developments are concerned, to prosecute the railroad companies as, in the case of the C.P.R. President Shaughnessy has manifested the liveliest desire to have the Bell contract declared void. He supplied the Crown with a certified copy of the document as soon as he was subpoenaed to appear in the Sise trial, and has announced that if the contract is a violation of the law he does not desire to see it further enforced.

Sensations of the Trial.

The indictment here is a foregone conclusion, since both Crown Attorney Dewart of York and Crown Attorney Farewell of Ontario have submitted their opinions that a good case exists against the Bell. The trial promises to be of the most sensational character. It will follow the officials of the government just as rapidly as the arrangements can be made. That the Bell is alert to the situation is evidenced by the retaining of Mr. Samuel Blake. This eminent barrister was employed when The World first took up the case of the Ontario farmers, and he made an effort to secure a writ of prohibition from the Crown. In this he was unsuccessful. The agitation had reached such proportions at that time that the government was forced to do something to allay popular clamor.

Farmers Are Pleased.

The farmers around Whitevale, according to President Hoover, in speaking to The World yesterday, are much pleased with the Bell being confronted in Toronto with an indictment. He declares that the people around Green River are watching the case intently, and will continue their prosecution just as soon as the case here is determined, and perhaps before. A conviction in one county is no bar to proceedings in another, since the contract being enforced to-day makes the offence a cumulative one.

Changed Their Tactics.

When The World commenced its fight for equal rights for the rural district telephones, the Bell officials ridiculed the efforts being made to secure equal rights for the farmers. The Bell agents asserted that the whole matter was a joke, and told the people in the small towns around Locust Hill that if the Bell desired they could prevent that section from ever afterwards having telephonic connection. Now they are making the most frantic efforts to pacify that part of the country, but in the meantime the sparks have started fires in many parts of the Dominion. When The World secured an eminent legal opinion showing the application of the Criminal Code, and the farmers issued the warrant for no less a person than the president of the Bell Company, the officials admitted that the case had assumed a serious phase.

Story of the Fight.

The history of the vigorous fight made on the Bell monopoly affords an illustration of just how potent the cause of the people is when massed against corporation effort. The different phases of the fight supply a lesson that will not be lost on the advocates of municipal ownership as opposed to franchise corporations.

Here are the clauses of the exclu-

Continued on Page 4.

WOULD BUY OUT GAS COMPANY.

Mayor Urquhart brought up the question of purchasing the Consumers' Gas Company last night before the Board of Control, but the controllers were too tired to go seriously into the matter. His Worship read a lengthy history of the city's litigation with the Gas Company, and he recommended that an offer be made to purchase the Gas stock at 214 per share, which was the present market price. He believed that the owners should not be compelled to sell their stock at less than it cost them, and by allowing $10,000 for those shareholders who had got their present holdings at a higher price than 214, it would entail a total expenditure of $3,755,170 to acquire the company. He thought the company would, however, refuse that offer. Then the city would be in a position to ask for legislation to amend the act. The city would have to make the offer before submitting the bylaw to the people. If the city bought the plant at the figure he named it would mean 60c gas.

Ald Burns did not favor buying the company at the present price, and he remarked that four millions was a big outlay when the city was talking about spending some millions on power development.

Ald. Richardson said the act would have to be changed before any other steps were taken toward getting the gas works. Ald. Oliver thought it was too late to discuss it.

The matter will come up again in a few days.

Navigation Opened.

Kingsville, Ont., March 16.—Navigation opened with the arrival here this evening of Mount Clemens from Detroit River. A small field of ice was seen off Colchester, but no serious obstruction to navigation is anticipated.

DOMINION STEEL ERRATIC

Wild Fluctuations Believed to Have Been Caused by a Concerted Deal Among Insiders.

SOME PROFIT-TAKING ON SHARP DIPS

Boston and Montreal Fail to Agree During Early Hours.

Montreal, March 16.—(Special.)—"There has been nothing but committee meetings to-day," was the announcement after the Dominion Steel directors met this afternoon. Second Vice-President Shields stated, however, that his year's coal sales would exceed those of last year's by 500,000 tons, and that the price would be considerably better than that of 1902. Fifty new coke ovens and the third steel furnace will be started next week, and in these works the entire 600 ovens and the four furnaces will be in full blast, then the Steel Company will reach for the first time its full output.

There was much excitement at the opening of the stock exchange this morning, and the volume of trading was exceptionally large. The break in steel was checked. After the close on Saturday bets were freely made that steel would sell to-day at 25 and as low as 20 this week, but the people who predicted those prices evidently failed to reckon upon the possibility of the directors of the Steel Company taking a hand in the proceedings. Senator Cox came down from Ottawa Saturday night and there was a consultation at which Senator Cox, Senator R. B. Angus and Manager Shields were present. It was decided to check the slump by buying a lot of stock, altho it is doubtful if the directors agreed to put up the market to any particular price.

Very Peculiar Market.

There was a very peculiar market at the opening, L. J. Forget & Co. came into the market and bought several thousand shares and there was a recovery of a full point from Saturday's close with a great many sales around 34. Boston evidently had not heard of the move to support the stock, as the price there suddenly broke to 30 3-4, the lowest price in the present movement. This was a great chance for the scalpers, and hundreds of shares were bought in Boston around 31 to 31 1-2, and unloaded upon this market at a couple of points higher. The market here stood it, however, and after a while Boston began to scent the support that was being afforded, and rose to a parity with local stock. The closing sale this afternoon at 37.

WATERWORKS SUPPLIES.

Valves, hydrants, cast iron gas and water pipes supplied at short notice. Canada Foundry Company, Limited, Main 3999, 14-16 King Street East.

CONGRATULATIONS.

To James McDougall, County Engineer, who to-day passes life's 50th milestone; and to C. C. Robinson, County Solicitor, who was born March 17, 1857.

Architectural and structural iron and steel work. Send for descriptive literature. Canada Foundry Company, Limited, 14-16 King Street East.

J. J. WRIGHT ILL.

Mr. J. J. Wright, manager of the Toronto Electric Light Company, is seriously ill, at his home, 14 Gwynne-avenue, from congestion of the lungs. Mr. Wright's condition showed improvement yesterday.

PATENTS—Fetherstonhaugh & Co. Head Office, King-street West, Toronto, and Montreal, Ottawa and Washington

BIRTHS.

EBY—On Monday, March 16, at 214 Beverley-street, Toronto, the wife of W. Percival Eby, of a son.

DEATHS.

HUGGINS—On Sunday, March 15, Mrs. Mary Huggins, aged 76 years.
Funeral on Tuesday, 17th inst., at 2 o'clock, from the home of her son-in-law, Abel Squirrell, 341 Spadina-ave. Friends and acquaintances will please accept this intimation.

LOSCOMBE—At Kincardine, on Thursday evening, the 12th inst., Francis Alexander Loscombe, the dearly loved husband of Charlotte Boyer Loscombe.

Reproached by Sir Wilfrid

Lively Scene at Ottawa

Warmly on Floor of House

Reference to Frail Health of Venerable Lieutenant-Governor by Member From East York—Provokes an Emphatic Display of Temper.

Ottawa, March 16.—(World staff correspondence.)—The incident of the session to-day came just before the House rose. During the afternoon the discussion of corruption in St. James' division, Montreal, made many minds turn to the situation in Ontario, but nothing was said to precipate an expression of opinion on the Gamey episode. Later, however, the matter was within an ace of being ventilated in the House in at least one of its phasts.

In the motion to adjourn, the member for East York, Mr. Maclean, arose, and said he desired to call attention of the first Minister to the condition of the health of the Lieut-nant-Governor of Ontario. In that province a great political crisis existed, and it was imperative that there should be a Lieutenant-Governor fully alive to the situation, and all that it might mean. Sir Oliver Mowat was very ill. At this point the Speaker, taking his cue from certain members on the government side of the House, declared that he thought was not in order. Mr. Maclean said that he asked the indulgence of the House for bringing the matter up at that time, but his excuse was that there was no "orders of the day" printed on the order paper. Continuing, he declared that the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario was in such a condition that he was really unable to discharge the functions of his office, and the discussion now on in the legislature of the Province of Ontario turned on this particular question; hence he thought that the government should takt steps to relieve him at this critical time.

Sir Wilfrid Takes Issue.

Mr. Maclean had hardly seated himself when Sir Wilfrid Laurier arose, and in a peculiar air declared that no member had any warrant to make the statement that the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario was ill. He considered the remark of the member for East York a gratuitous insinuation, to say the least of it. He maintained that Sir Oliver Mowat's faculties were unimpaired, and he was informed that there was no truth in the rumor of his failing health. In the case of such a man, he considered that the dignity of his career should cause him to be spoken of only with respect. It would have been better to have left the honorable member's remarks unsaid.

Mr. Maclean was on his feet in a moment, and repudiated Sir Wilfrid's insinuation that he had spoken disrespectfully of Sir Oliver. He had as great respect for Sir Oliver as any member in the House. He did not reflect on the character of the Lieut-nant-Governor. He dealt only with the office of Lieutenant-Governor, for that office at the present grave crisis was not accessible to the public. Sir Oliver could not discharge his duties in the House last week because of his ill-health. (Cries of "order" from the government benches.) Mr. Lancaster then joined with Mr. Maclean in saying that the Lieutenant-Governor was incapacitated from discharging his duties last week, and declared that some permanent appointment should be made at once.

Mr. Borden's Decided Views.

Mr. Borden took up the cudgels in defence of the member for East York, and with some heat said that Mr. Maclean had cast no reflection on the Lieutenant-Governor, and it was gratuitous on the part of the Premier to put that construction on the honorable member's words. It was common property that Sir Olivtr Mowat was not physically fit to discharge his duties.

Sir Wilfrid: "No, no."

Mr. Borden replied that he was not speaking from the book; he spoke of matters whereof he knew. Everyone respected Sir Oliver, but his physical condition was such that he would not be fully capable of acting in the present political crisis. He considered that Sir Wilfrid's remarks were not in very good taste, when he took upon himself to lecture the member for East York. The Lieutenant-Governor was in a very weak state physically, for which everyone was sorry, but the fact of his weakness remained. Therefore, the observations of the member for East York were pertinent, and quite in good taste. **Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Minister of Justice, replied that the position was that either Sir Oliver should be retained, or he should resign.** In this legal manner he took Sir Wilfrid's part.

Mr. Borden replied that perhaps Sir Oliver might not be physically able to take the matter of signing the warrant for a Royal commission into consideration.

Another Reflection.

Mr. Fielding interjected that that was simply another reflection.

Then Mr. McCarthy repeated Mr. Fitzpatrick's words, and added that he had been told by relatives of Sir Oliver within the past two days that he was so well that he had been writing his personal letters within the past three days. In fact, he could assure the House that Sir Oliver was in his usual health. Then the discussion ceased, and the House adjourned.

Causes Much Comment.

But more than a little was developed in the discussion. Since the House opened the Conservatives have been inclined to treat Sir Wilfrid gently, and with all possible deference, believing the evidence of their eyes, that he is a very ill man. Now, however, they have been met with a chilly reception, for chilly reception it was, in the light of the fact that, in order not to take the Premier unawares, but to give ample warning, the member for East York had written a note to him earlier in the afternoon, telling him of what he intended to do. That Sir Wilfrid's attitude aroused the animosity of the even-tempered Borden is sufficient evidence that his reflection on the motives of the member for East York were entirely gratuitous. In the corridors, the members are discussing the episode and the feeling is abroad that Sir Oliver is anxious to be given another five years of power. It is assumed that is in the realm of possibility that he may ask to be assured of another term previous to signing the warrant that Premier Ross is so anxious to get. At all events, Sir Wilfrid may expect no gentler treatment from the opposition in debate that he gives of his own accord.

Private Members' Day.

This was private members' day. The session of the House was brief. Twelve bills were introduced. Mr. Charlton fathered two, one to amend the Railway Act, the other to amend the Elections Act. The former aims to reduce the minimum grant on progress estimate from $60,000 to $30,000. Mr. Maclean introduced his bill regarding telephone companies, and one to amend the Railway Act.

Means Relief From Monopoly.

The latter aims to make every railway company that gives facilities at its stations to a telephone company give equal facilities to any other company. Mr. Maclean, explaining his bill at the request of the House, declared that the Grand Trunk, the C. P. R. and other railways have agreed with the Bell Telephone Company that it alone should have access to their stations, and this was an unfair discrimination, and contrary to the spirit of the Railway Act, which puts all express companies on an equal footing as regards facilities offered by railways. He asked the Minister of Railways to state if he would accept the principle laid down in his amendment, for, if that principle were accepted, a large number of independent telephone lines would be started at once, and a great benefit would accrue to many communities.

Cattle Guard Bill.

Mr. Lancaster introduced his cattle-guard bill of last year. Mr. Fitzpatrick, Minister of Justice, introduced seven bills. One provides that judges of the Supreme Court, who are 75, and have been a certain number of years on the bench, may be retired on full pay; second, gives the government power to take limited possession of property, or to withdraw from a bargain, after having given notice of expropriation; a third gives effect to legislation passed by the Yukon Council regarding the summoning of juries; fourth, aims to deal out more severe punishments to those who attend immoral and indecent plays in large cities, such as Montreal and Toronto, and a fifth changes the elections Act so that an election trial may be held in another county than the one where the offence was committed.

As to Inland Grain Receipts.

Mr. Bennett asked: "What were the grain receipts of all kinds at the ports of Midland, Depot Harbor, Collingwood, Owen Sound, Meaford, Goderich, Kingston and Prescott during the season of navigation of 1902?"

Mr. Paterson replied for the Hon. Mr. Bernier as follows: Midland, 15,017,760 bushels; Depot Harbor, 12,710,303; Collingwood, 2,447,824; Owen Sound, 1,794,381; Meaford 2,563,311; Goderich, 2,226,469; Kingston, 6,848,000; Prescott, 97,749.

The information was given that wood alcohol is manufactured in Deseronto Fenelon Falls and Longford, and that it is not subject to excise.

It was admitted that the postoffice site at Valleyfield had been bought from G. M. Loy, M.P., for $10,000.

Mr. Casgrain brought up the need of a law library in London for the use of counsel appearing before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Mr. Fitzpatrick thought the provinces of Canada could do something in the matter by sending law court reports. Mr. Borden agreed with Mr. Fitzpatrick and thought the Council should be better housed.

Election Corruption in Quebec.

Election corruption in Quebec was the topic of a complaint entered by Mr. Casgrain this afternoon in the House when he asked for all papers connected with the release of Arthur Brunet, the star corruptionist in St. James' division of Montreal. He reviewed this notorious case that was only second to the West Elgin and West Huron cases in Ontario. He showed how voters had been personated by hired telegraphers, ballots switched and boxes stuffed. This occurred in division No. 14 and was duplicated in 18 others. The arch instigator of the corruption was Arthur Brunet. He was tried and convicted, and sentenced to six months in jail. The public of Canada breathed easier. It was a credit to Quebec that she alone of all the provinces where election corruption was rampant had jailed the corruptionist. There was no doubt that the Chief Justice of Quebec who passed sentence on Brunet had taken into account "all the extenuating circumstances, and had been just." But a petition was circulated, signed and sent to the government, and the government pardoned him after he had served four months of his sentence. He asked that the House be put in possession of this petition; that the names of the petitioners might be scrutinized. He feared that the government might seek to shield its responsibility behind those who had signed the petition.

Documents to Be Produced.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, replying, said that the practice was not to produce documents on which the prerogative of mercy had been exercised, but this was an exceptional case. They would be brought down. He declared that the petition was not signed exclusively by Liberals, but also by those high in the councils of the Conservative party, and high in the positions they occupied in the House. He defended the release of Brunet, declaring that medical certificates presented showed him to be in poor condition of health. His case was not unique. He thought it might be wise to ask why any inequality was shown in the judgments

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SIR OLIVER IMPROVING.

Enquiry at Government House last evening elicited the good news that Sir Oliver is very much better than he was a week ago, and that the warm spring weather soon to come will, it is expected, fully restore his accustomed health.

Lacier' New York Hats.

Walking hats of spring design by the best designers of ladies' real spring walking hats. Made by the Fifth-avenue artists and specially imported by the W. & D. Dineen Company, Limited, Toronto. These hats are not millinery creations, but are quiet but rich tailor-made designs. They are the proper thing in Gotham.

UNSETTLED.

Meteorological Office, Toronto, March 16. (8 p.m.)—Rain is falling to-night over Lakes Erie and Ontario; elsewhere in Canada the weather is fair. Mild conditions prevail generally.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 34—36; Calgary, 8 below—24; Qu'Appelle, 2—26; Winnipeg, 14—28; Port Arthur, 28—36; Parry Sound, 28—32; Toronto, 34—44; Ottawa, 24—46; Montreal, 22—42; Quebec, 24—34; Halifax, 20—32.

Probabilities.

Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Unsettled and continued mild, with occasional showers.

Six o'clock dinner at New Carlton Hotel

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

March 16.	At	From.
Ivernia	New York	Liverpool
Calabria	New York	Naples
Rhyndam	New York	Rotterdam
Belgravia	Hamburg	New York
Koenigen	Bremen	New York
K.W. d. Grosse	Cherbourg	New York
Haverford	Philadelphia	Queenstown