

So the Session closed. It remains to be mentioned in this connection that Mr. Emmerson never proceeded with the three libel actions which he mentioned in his speech. But after waiting several weeks he laid a criminal information against James H. Crocket, Managing Editor of the *Fredericton Gleaner*.

BEFORE THE COURTS.

Mr. Crocket did not ask for mercy or delay. He admitted publication of the article in question, declared the statements to be true, and pleaded that they were published in the public interest. The day arrived for the trial. Mr. Crocket had brought from Montreal as witnesses for the defence four clerks and attendants of the St. Lawrence Hall Hotel, and one clerk from the Albion Hotel, and a St. Lawrence Hall guest who occupied the room adjoining Mr. Emmerson's. The Crown had an array of counsel, including Hon. William Pugsley, former Premier and Attorney-General; Hon. A. S. White, ex-Attorney-General; Jeremiah Barry, K.C., and A. B. Copp, M.P.P. Mr. Crocket was defended by J. B. Hazen, K.C., M.P.P.; O. S. Crocket, M.P., and H. F. McLeod.

PROSECUTION REFUSED TO GO ON.

Before the taking of evidence began, and even before a jury was empanelled, the prosecution came to an untimely close. The Crown counsel demurred to the plea of justification, contending among other things that it was not for the public benefit that such statements as those of the *Gleaner* should be printed; that even if the personal morals of Members of the Government were matters of public interest the proper place for discussion was in Parliament and not in the press. The Crown also contended that the words complained of when used against Mr. Emmerson because he was a Minister, constituted a seditious libel. Counsel for the Crown distinctly stated that it was not in the public interest to have the statements against Mr. Emmerson published even if they were true.

The Judge made short work of these objections. He ruled against them and announced his intention of going on with the case and hearing the evidence in support of Mr. Crocket's plea that the *Gleaner's* statements were true. Judge Landry was willing to reserve a case to be argued before the Supreme Court, but saw no necessity for postponing the trial.

Thereupon the Crown, that is to say, Mr. Emmerson's lawyers, refused to go on, and as they had control of the machinery, the matter stands over until January, 1908. It remains to be seen whether it will go any farther.

MR. HYMAN'S FINAL RESIGNATION.

Mr. Hyman, Minister of Public Works, did not return to Canada during the Session nor the summer following. When Sir Wilfrid returned