

MR. WHITNEY MAKES A SERIOUS CHARGE

He Says that Corporations paid the Government for Favors.

Press Gallery, Legislature, May 4th, 1901.

When the history of Ontario is written, the Province of the legislature will be known as one which the Opposition fought the battles of the people, and fought the power of the Government which is controlled and owned by corporations. This article however, will not trace the story of the session, but will be limited to that which transpired during the week, for indeed during the last few days of political shiftlessness, in enough of political misdeeds on the part of the Government has been brought forth to fill a volume.

The Scrap Iron Assessment Stays The question of assessment is one in which the government has shown the greatest possible amount of inefficiency, and he who uses the word "scrap iron" would not be very far astray. But let us for a moment consider this assessment question. Some time ago the Ontario Government a bill which was known as the "Scrap Iron" Assessment. The Court decided that the act should be valued at the price for which it would sell for old iron. To value a horse on this basis you would estimate the value of his bones and hide. The members of the Government say that they did not know that the act meant much, and this is a confession that they did not know the meanings of their own laws. The people were all amazed at this decision and asked for a repeal, but instead the Government confirmed it. Last year the people demanded its repeal, but the Government appointed a Commission. That Commission met, condemned the government's act, and framed a new bill.

The Government introduced the new bill to satisfy the corporations; they also introduced the iniquitous bill, which rode rough shod over the people's rights and permitted municipal councils the right to make bargains with the corporations, so this week the Government withdrew the bill doing away with the "Scrap Iron" Assessment, and also the other bill. The Assessment act remains as before, and corporations rule in Ontario.

Mr. Whitney's Charge

In this regard the admirable speech of Mr. Whitney delivered in the House on Wednesday was quoted. "When the government said he proposed to tax corporations, a contract was made by which corporations contributed large sums of money and by means of the money the by-elections in 1899 were won. If any one thinks I have not made any statement distinct let him show me wherein it is weak and I will make it stronger, because I know where I speak, and the time will come when I shall be ready to allude in greater detail to the question. Then came as a result the famous "Scrap Iron" iniquity, as some call it, another sop to the corporations in return for what they had done. Does any hon. gentleman ask who is authority for my statement? When he does I will answer the question. Then we had the Assessment Commission appointed last year, when the Government found themselves attacked at the point of the bayonet. That disposed of the question last year. This year the Assessment Commission has given to the hon. gentlemen an assessment bill at their own request, and they have had it before this House and have discussed it. Now they have not back-bone to carry it out. Why? One reason is that they have been threatened by the corporations of this province. The premier brought down a bill the other day which should have been termed by the common hangman rather than introduce it into any British Legislature. He stated to this House that this was a bill to enable municipal corporations to make contracts with the people who wished to commence certain industries. I do not believe that, apart from the ministers, ten could be found to support it. It provided in effect that corporations, electric light, telephone, street railway, and similar companies, could be exempted from municipal taxation without consulting the people. In other words the men in the townships or villages who happened to fill the positions of municipal councilors for one year might for three years take away from their constituents the right of taxation on these corporations. I say this: that the Government of this province, represented by the corporations that this bill was being introduced in their interests and as a relief from the new assess-

ment law introduced. The corporations refused to accept it as a measure of relief, and said they asked for nothing of the kind. Any hon. gentleman in my position would be the reverse of the wise were he to make the statements I have made without knowing whereof he spoke. I am content with them just now, and in the future perhaps I will enlarge upon these statements." You say that this is strong language, and so it is, and he who is not acquainted with the facts and the man say that it was uttered in the heat of a debate. There is only one answer to such a person. Not one member of the Government dare make reply.

To Account for Money

The Opposition have found fault with the Government this week regarding the Public Accounts and the expenditure of public money. They were right too. The Conservatives ask the Government to give more details about the money spent, like many of the States do. It was pointed out strongly how the government got in some fine work when distributing the colonization roads money. Last year \$110,000 was spent on roads in Liberal constituencies while the modest sum of \$13,000 found its way into Conservative counties. The same thing happened the year before when the Government counties got ten times more than the conservative ones. Of course the same thing will happen this year again because the elections are coming on.

A Well-Fed Calf

Mr. A. Primeau's stock of Easter beef was a credit to any butcher shop in Canada. In the display were the carcasses of three animals fed by Mr. Wm. Lunny of Mariposa, who is an expert in beef-producing. They were young animals—two of them twins. One weighed 1150 and another 1300 pounds and carried about the right proportion of fat to make first-class meat.

But it is not of these that Mr. Primeau is proudest but of a calf that adorned his window bearing the placard "Fed by ourselves: weighs 135 pounds."

Speaking of this animal Mr. Primeau said: "That calf was born about the first of February. Its mother was a common cow that I got from a farmer out east a couple of years ago for \$25. Its sire was Durham. From the time of its birth it was fed from a pail. Its mother is a good milker. She gives about 18 quarts a day. Besides three or four quarts for the house the calf was fed it all. For the first three weeks it got the plain milk. This was fed to it three times a day—in the morning, at 2 in the afternoon and at 9 in the evening. You see that divided up the 24 hours so that it would not have to fast too long. After three weeks we added an egg to the night and morning meal, and later on rolled biscuit or bread and half a cup of sugar. As it got older it ate more or less hay.

We killed it on April 2nd, or when about two months old and it dressed 135 pounds; that means about 215 live weight. Mr. Lunny says it beat anything he ever fed and Dr. Kenny tells me that these people who breed thoroughbreds rarely do any better."

Mr. Primeau has evidently set the pace for the farmers of this county as a feeder and has also given them an illustration of how it ought to be done.

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- For spring the Fawn and Grey Cheviot Box Back Overcoat will be popular favorites.

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- MENS' NEW SPRING SUITS in high grade Canadian Tweed, all patterns of 1901—\$3.00, \$4.50, \$5, \$5.50, \$6.50.
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THE BIG CLOTHIER

WILL THE I.O.O.F. HELP TO COMPLETE THE PARK?

That and Other Questions Were Discussed by the Board of Trade

The regular meeting of the Board of Trade held on Thursday night was attended by about a dozen gentlemen. They were: Pres. Flavelle and Messrs. Fisher, Brady, Hockin, Kylie, Edwards, Carew, Bryans, Graham, Lang, Paddon, and Donnel. The last named was made a member at the meeting. In the absence of Sec. Sootheran, Mr. John Kelly acted as secretary.

A letter from Supt. Rogers said that the dredge would be required at Lakefield for a month after navigation opens. Then it would come to Lindsay and finish the work in front of Carew's mill.

Mr. Bryans said he had talked with Mr. Wm. Channon about the lecturers on sugar beets, who were to speak in Peterboro on Wednesday. Mr. Channon suggested that efforts should be made to have them speak in Lindsay the next day with a view to establishing the industry in this county and a refinery in Lindsay. The department wanted 150 to make a test of a quarter acre of the beets this year. Mr. Bryans said no part of Canada was better adapted for growing the beets than Victoria County.

The president—Who is promoting this? I think it a most important matter.

Mr. Hockin—I was asked to take stock by Toronto people before coming here. Eby, Blain & Co. are the chief shareholders there. The idea is to establish factories at different points.

A committee of the president, and Messrs Bryans and Graham was appointed to see Mr. Channon and take action regarding the speakers.

Mr. Edwards—Has anything been done about getting better freight rates for Mr. Cornell of the brewery?

The pres.—No; but I think if it can be shown that the rates are against shippers from Lindsay particularly the management will adjust them.

Mr. Graham—It may not be in our province to urge upon the cemetery company to build a vault in the cemetery but as a private citizen I think it is due to the public that one should be built.

The president thought the new directors would take action in that matter.

Mr. Hockin asked if the council of Lindsay could not keep the

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