

THE LEGISLATURE.

Premier Hardy Again Refutes False Charges.

PASSING THE ESTIMATES.

Many Appropriations Passed With Little Criticism.

Adjala Will Remain in Simcoe County—
Mr. Charlton Chairman of the Public
Accounts Committee.

Legislative Chamber, March 9.

The House to-day made great progress with the estimates for the coming year. The appropriations for the Crown Lands Department and for the maintenance of the asylums and prisons of the Province were passed with but little criticism and no amendment. In no case was there an increase of any considerable amount over last year, and in more than one case reductions of some importance were suggested in the estimates. Upon the opening of the House Mr. Hardy called the attention of the House to a clipping in *The Mail and Empire* to the effect that he had a number of relatives in the employ of the Ontario Government. He completely and categorically refuted the statements made, which, he said, he had contradicted during the last campaign. Mr. Charlton was this morning elected Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

AN OLD LIBEL REFUTED.

Mr. Hardy rose to a question of privilege. A paragraph which appeared in *The Mail and Empire* of Wednesday last said: "The Ottawa Citizen has given its readers the following very interesting information: 'Hon. A. S. Hardy, who is Premier of the Province, has the following persons drawing salaries from the Province's money box: his father, Mr. Russell Hardy, a store-keeper in the London Asylum; his son, an official in the Crown Lands Department; his niece, an official in the Orillia Asylum; his cousin, an official in the Crown Lands Department; his nephew, an official in the Education Department; another cousin, an official in the license branch; his sister, an official in the Hamilton Asylum; his former partner, registrar of the Crown Lands Department.' Mr. Hardy appears to have taken special care to follow Sir Oliver's policy in this respect."

Mr. Hardy said that this was an old story that was circulated of him last year, but he had contradicted it and it had been contradicted in the public press. The writer in *The Mail and Empire* was not ignorant of the contradiction nor of the fact that most of what was said was absolutely untrue and false. He had no father in the London Asylum, his father has been dead