

between midnight and 7 o'clock. The municipal amendment and assessment amendment acts, embodying the provisions of bills relating to municipal and assessment matters, which had been previously passed, went through in short order. The Attorney-General's measure relating to the statute law was under review for quite a while, but finally received its third reading. In committee a number of important amendments were made to the measure, the most interesting, probably, being those empowering the Government to enter into a binding agreement with the Rankine Company for the surrender of their monopoly at Niagara Falls, and enabling the Park Commissioners to give other companies seeking to develop electrical energy admission to the park. The Opposition fought these amendments, on the ground that it was putting too much power in the hands of the Government, but the majority of the House by their votes expressed their confidence that such power would be judiciously exercised by the Executive.

Another amendment made in the statute law authorizes the Government to refund to the Goldfields Exploration Company, sometimes referred to as the Engledeue syndicate, their deposit of \$20,000. The company have spent between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in exploration and development work without any very tangible results, and the refund is in accordance with the terms of the agreement entered into by them with the Government in 1897.

Mr. Whitney caused the House to be divided several times upon the resolutions granting subsidies to railways. The principal items attacked were the subsidies of \$2,000 a mile each to the Ontario, Hudson Bay & Western Railway and the James Bay Railway, and the land grants to the former line and also to the Sault Ste. Marie & Hudson Bay Railway. Mr. Whitney's justification for thus seeking to retard the development of the northern part of the Province was that he could not see any reason for making these grants, when the Government were imposing direct taxation upon the people.

Daylight came and found the legislators still at work. One of the last things done before adjournment was the withdrawal by Hon. Mr. Davis of the bill having for its object the licensing of outside corporations who sell mining stocks in Ontario. The last dying hours of the session were enlivened by a brisk tilt between the Opposition leader and the Attorney-General and the Minister of Education. It arose out of some reflections made upon Mr. Ross by Mr. Whitney, in the latter's chagrin at finding that, having unduly delayed his bill to punish election bribers, the measure could not then receive consideration.

Soon the last stroke of business was done, and the members, who had been

for some time previously pelting each other with blue books and copies of bills, rose and sang the national anthem, following it by a rendition of "Auld Lang Syne."

Prorogation, so the Attorney-General announced, takes place at 3 o'clock tomorrow.

Some Measures Passed.

The municipal assessment act and the assessment amendment acts and the bills amending respectively the acts relating to insurance companies and to loan companies were pushed through committee, read a third time and passed.

Then the House again went into committee on the bill to amend the statute law of the Province.

The Engledeue Agreement.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gibson a clause was inserted providing for the refunding of \$20,000, the security deposited by the Engledeue syndicate under an agreement entered into in February, 1897. The agreement itself, he said, provided that on the surrender by the syndicate of either of the areas they had undertaken to explore and prospect, one-half of the deposit should be returned immediately. The syndicate had spent between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in exploration and prospecting, but noth-

ing had been discovered which would make it worth while for them to undertake further development work on either location. The syndicate, therefore, desired to surrender both areas and the clause authorized the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to refund the whole deposit. The question was: Should the syndicate be penalized, so to speak, by the Province insisting on retaining the whole of the deposit, after the syndicate had spent the sum named in exploration and prospecting?

Mr. Matheson asked why individual or private explorers should not be treated in the same way. The deal in the first place, he contended, had been an unusual one and weak in every particular. Canadians had been shut out from the area while the English company were at work.

Hon. Mr. Gibson pointed out that private individuals went on Crown lands, and, after prospecting, applied for a lease of lands which they thought were worth developing. In this instance the syndicate had taken over these areas without having first seen or having knowledge of them. They had gone in on chance, and it was a matter of regret that they had not succeeded.

The Government's Reports.

Mr. Carscallen asked what independent report the Government had on the subject.

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that they had the reports of the mines inspector of the western division and the Director of the Bureau of Mines.

Mr. Pattullo agreed that it was a matter of regret that the syndicate with which the Government had made so hard a bargain had not succeeded in discovering evidences enough to warrant them to go into development.

Mr. Whitney thought the Government had been guilty of impropriety in bringing in the proposition at this late stage