

FRIDAY, MARCH 23,

WEST ELGIN FRAUDS.

Statements by John G. Pritchett
Read by Mr. Whitney.

AFFIDAVITS PRODUCED.

Taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by a motion to go into Committee of Supply, Mr. Whitney last evening in the Legislature moved an amendment condemning the appointment of Mr. R. A. Grant as assistant counsel to the West Elgin Commission. The Opposition assumed that Mr. Grant occupied the position referred to, but the Attorney-General subsequently explained that Mr. Wm. Macdonald was expected by the Government to act as assistant to Mr. G. H. Watson, counsel to the commission. It so happened, however, that Mr. Macdonald was out of the city when the commission met, and if Mr. Grant had acted as assistant he had only done so temporarily. Mr. Whitney supported his attack on Mr. Grant by reading three affidavits from John G. Pritchett, formerly an Alderman of London, but now a resident of Detroit. In these affidavits Pritchett declared that he acted as a deputy returning officer in the West Elgin election under an assumed name, and counted for Mr. Macnish, the Liberal candidate, nineteen votes that were cast for Mr. Macdiarmid, the Conservative candidate. When the exposure took place Pritchett asserted that he was paid money to leave the country and promised that he would be given regular payments until the affair had cleared over. In replying to Mr. Whitney, the Attorney-General and the

Premier pointed out that the electoral corruption in West Elgin was now being inquired into by an impartial tribunal, and protested against attempts to defame a member of the legal profession on the strength of the statements of a man who by his own confession ought to be in jail. Mr. Whitney's amendment was voted down by a straight party vote, and the House then went into Committee of Supply.

Mr. Mutrie complained that in yesterday's Globe some remarks made by Mr. Jessop were attributed to the former. The remark was to the effect that members of municipal Councils were in every way the equal of members of the Legislature.

Mr. Crawford (in the absence of Mr. Carscallen) introduced a bill for the protection of life and property in the use of stationary boilers and engines, and the examining and licensing of persons in charge of them.

Loan Corporations.

In moving the second reading of a bill to amend the loan corporations act Mr. Gibson said the changes contemplated by the bill were suggested by Dominion legislation on the same subject. Formerly legislation by both Houses ran in pretty much the same lines. Of late there had been more or less divergence on the part of the Dominion Parliament. One of the most important matters dealt with by the bill was the borrowing powers of loan companies. The difference existing between the Dominion act and the Provincial law with reference to this point was that while Ontario provided that in the case of companies doing a savings bank business the borrowing powers should not be more than three times the amount of paid-up stock, the Dominion law authorized borrowing power to four times the amount of the paid-