

MEASURING LOGS.

Present System in Ontario Vigorously Attacked.

PROVINCE SAID TO LOSE.

Dr. Pyne's Bill to Abolish Mortgage Covenants—Many Measures Considered at Yesterday's Sitting of the Legislature.

Many measures were considered at yesterday afternoon's session of the Legislature. The attendance was slim, but this did not detract from the despatch of business. The only enlivening incident was an attack by Mr. Beatty (Leeds) upon the system of measurement of lumber in use in Ontario, which, he said, inured greatly to the benefit of the lumbermen by reckoning a lower number of feet than was actually the case. A short, spirited debate followed, during which it was pointed out by members on the opposite side of the House that no rule of measurement was in itself perfectly correct.

Inspection of Pulp.

In reply to Mr. Monteith (South Perth), who asked what amount of time the Government agent had given to an examination of the spruce or other timber included in the 75 miles' reservation granted to the Sturgeon Falls Pulp & Paper Company, also to the Spanish Pulp & Paper Company, Hon. Mr. Davis said no reservation had been granted to either of these companies.

Measurement of Logs.

Mr. Beatty (Leeds) moved for a return giving a copy of the order in Council changing the Ontario standard of log measurement from the Scribner to the Doyle or Durkin rule. In doing so he made an attack on the present system of log measurement. Under it, he said, the Province received dues on 700 feet of timber, board measurement, where the actual area was 1,000 feet, in other words the Doyle was 30 per cent. below the actual fact. Proceeding, Mr. Beatty objected to the sale of pine timber by public auction. He did not re-

gard the present dues of \$1.25 per M as sufficient return for the timber cut on our limits. He believed that the Province had lost \$3,000,000 dues through the Doyle rule.

Mr. Davis' Reply.

Hon. Mr. Davis said the Doyle rule had been substituted for the Scribner measurement of logs in 1879 by the then Commissioner of Crown Lands, the late Mr. Pardee, than whom no officer of the Government ever enjoyed more the confidence of the people. The department considered that the Scribner system would return more measurement from a run of small logs, while the Doyle rule would show a larger measurement for a run of large logs. He considered that Mr. Beatty's statement criticizing the sale of pine timber by public auction was a condemnation of the position taken by the Opposition only the day previously. Mr. Davis had no objection to the motion for a return going through.

Mr. Matheson (South Lanark), said Mr. Beatty deserved the thanks of the House for bringing the matter up. In Nova Scotia, Quebec and other Provinces the Scribner rule was in force. Lumbermen who cut 1,000 feet in this Province paid dues on only 700 feet. He complained that there was no provision for the measuring of lumber after it is sawn, so that the Government's measurement might be checked.

No Rule Is Correct.

Mr. Conmee said neither the Doyle nor Scribner rule was correct. There could not be an exact measurement in the case of logs. In the Speaker's opinion, it did not make much difference which rule was adopted, the result in payment to the Province would be about the same, because when a limit was put up for sale the lumbermen knew what rule was going to be adopted. If there was a run of large timber in the limit the rule would be against the lumberman, and if it was a run of small timber, the rule would be in his favor. As a matter of fact, the Province had received more for its timber than would be considered a fair price in the open market.

On the motion of Mr. Reid (Addington) the debate was adjourned.

School Sections.

Mr. Bain's bill to repeal that clause of the school act requiring school sections to be undisturbed for five years was withdrawn, at the request of the Minister of Education.

Position of Companies.

Mr. Hill's bill imposing the same penalties for criminal acts upon companies doing business in Ontario as upon private individuals was allowed to stand.

The provision making the President and Manager of a company responsible for all the acts of employees was characterized by Hon. Mr. Stratton as absurd, and outside the jurisdiction of the Legislature.

Abolition of Covenants.

A bill by Dr. Pyne sought to amend