

Brantford to be recouped for expenditures in flood prevention measures had been receiving the attention of the Government. Inquiries had been made, and it had been hoped that an adequate remedy would be secured. It was confidently hoped that as a result of the Government's efforts a recurrence of the damage would be prevented.

West Elgin Commission.

Hon. Mr. Gibson, responding to Dr. Pyne, said that no application was made to the Government or any member thereof, by the West Elgin Commission or any member of the commission, for assistance. Neither had any members of the commission individually or as a body suggested that the investigation was not likely to be effective.

The Leasing of Lakes.

Hon. Mr. Latchford, in answer to a notice of motion by Mr. Barr for certain correspondence, said that the attention of himself and the Government had been given for some time to the consideration of the question of leasing any lakes in Ontario for fishing by nets or otherwise. There were two sides to the question, and both had strong supporters. In Quebec the system of leasing a number of the lakes had resulted in much good. For his own part, he was in favor of leasing a number of Ontario lakes. He was in hopes, however, that a definite policy by the Government would soon be announced.

Cold-storage Again.

Mr. McLaughlin moved for an order of the House for a return showing the location of any cold-storage station or stations established under act of last session, with amounts paid. He said that in answering his question on this point the Minister of Agriculture had mentioned the station at St. Catharines. He (Mr. McLaughlin), however, was of opinion that the station had been established before 1900.

Hon. Mr. Dryden was of opinion that the station had been established under the act, although it had been talked of before.

Mr. Whitney contended that the declaration of the Minister simply meant that nothing had been accomplished by the act.

The Premier answered that many things did not come to pass immediately after action had been taken by the House. That was a common experience both on private and public measures. Mr. Whitney was giving another proof of his desire to minimize Government measures.

San Jose Scale.

Dr. Jessop (Lincoln) moved for a return showing the number of San Jose scale infected fruit trees in Lincoln County condemned, the number destroyed, the number condemned but not destroyed, and a list of the owners of those not destroyed and the reason why not destroyed. In support of his motion he said he knew of cases where the trees in one orchard were destroyed, while in orchards adjacent they were condemned but not destroyed. He thought the Government should still further remunerate those whose trees had been destroyed.

Hon. Mr. Dryden said he had no objection to giving the information asked for. He was perfectly well aware that a good deal of objection was taken by the owners of trees to having them destroyed. The object of the Government's legislation had been to stamp out the scale altogether, but the measures had not prevented the scale from spreading so far that it had got beyond their control. While the law did not do all that had been expected, it had accomplished a good deal, and the scale had been stamped out in a hundred places where it had been started by nursery stock. In 1898 the inspector ascertained that the scale had spread so far that it would have cost \$300,000 or \$400,000 to recoup fruit-growers for the destruction of all the trees that were infected. That was the reason the destruction of the trees was stopped. Every precaution was now being taken in the fumigation of nursery stock. He knew of no reason why some trees should be condemned and not destroyed and others destroyed in the same neighborhood.

Mr. Whitney—Perhaps a shot-gun prevented the destruction. (Laughter.)

Provincial Liabilities.

Col. Matheson asked for a return of copies of all awards made by the arbitrators between the Province and the Dominion subsequent to the return brought down during 1900. He said that the Dominion accounts showed that in 1892 the Province owed to the Dominion \$1,815,000, to which between \$400,000 and \$500,000 had to be added. The latter amount was for the Parliament buildings and Rockwood Asylum, for which moneys had been borrowed, and the award on the common school fund.

The Premier said that all matters in dispute except the common school

fund and treaty number three were practically closed debts. The treaty and the common school fund were the only liabilities in suspense. A liability would probably arise in regard to the former, which they hoped would soon be submitted to arbitration. In regard to the common school fund he had been advised that the Province was liable, as was Quebec, for only \$100,000, and that the \$12,000 additional, which the hon. gentleman contended was part of Ontario's share, was really held in trust for the Province by the Dominion, and bearing interest at 5 per cent.

Mr. Whitney, on a question of privilege, said that he had been incorrectly quoted in an evening paper editorial in regard to his attitude on the university question, and explained the difference between the actual words he used and the inference drawn in the editorial.

The House rose at 4.15.

Large Increase in Fees.

The fees received at the Provincial Secretary's Department during the month of February amounted to \$12,106, being the largest amount ever received by the department in one month, and being \$2,913 more than the whole year's fees in the year 1891. This amount was largely made up of the fees prescribed by the recent act for