

ground against the practice of reading in the House affidavits made by irresponsible persons reflecting on men who had no means of obtaining justice, the members being privileged. Mr. Whitney said something was to be said on both sides. Premier Ross agreed with Mr. Carscallen, and when the Attorney-General reminded the House that Mr. Whitney first introduced the practice in the Legislature, the latter rose and declared with much energy that nothing in his public life had given him greater satisfaction than the reading of the Fritchett affidavits a year ago. The Premier read a letter from H. A. Branton of St. Thomas strenuously denying a charge against him contained in an affidavit read recently by Dr. Jamieson.

To Lessen Costs.

Hon. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill to amend the municipal drainage act, which is designed to make the decision of the drainage referee practically final, and to prevent appeals to the Supreme Court in drainage cases. The details of the bill are not yet completed.

Bills Passed.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—

Respecting Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton.

Respecting the Town of Petrolea.

Respecting the Supreme Court of the Independent Order of Foresters.

To enable the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Huron to provide for the election of Select Vestries or Boards of Management.

Respecting the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of Hamilton.

Respecting Les Reverends Peres Oblats de L'Immacule Conception de Marie, commonly known as the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The House then passed a large number of private bills through committee and through second reading respectively.

The Pulp Concessions.

Hon. Mr. Davis, replying to a series of questions by Mr. Carscallen (East Hamilton), said that pending negotiations for the transfer of their rights to the Ed. Lloyd Company, the Sturgeon Falls Pulp Company were not carrying on development work. The Government had called their attention to this failure to live up to the terms of the agreement. He gave figures relative to the timber cut by the company and the fees paid to the Government, which amounted to \$3,928. He also gave details of the formation, amount of capital and the directors, and other information of the following companies:—Spanish River Pulp & Paper Co., which, he said, was about to erect mills; the Nepigon Pulp & Manufacturing Co., the erection of whose mills had been delayed until a careful scheme of damming to produce necessary waterpower had been decided upon, and the Blanche River Pulp & Paper Co., who were ne-

gotiating for waterpower. The last three named companies had not cut any timber, and had not, therefore, paid any dues to the Government.

Deprecates Affidavits.

Mr. Carscallen (East Hamilton), speaking to a motion in his name that the affidavit by Albert Bossard, read by Mr. Graham in the House, be impounded, said that on looking up precedents he had concluded he should have made the motion before the hon. gentleman had concluded his speech. He would therefore withdraw the motion. In doing so, however, he wished to express the view that the practice of reading affidavits now being adopted in the House was very corrupt and very pernicious. (Hear, hear.) The rules should be amended to prevent it. Full freedom of speech should be allowed to members, but the privilege should not be abused. Persons who set out to get affidavits could get them probably against every member of the House, or someone out of it, by paying, say, \$10 or \$15, and yet be safe from prosecution. The House should therefore endeavor to stop a practice which lower-

ed the tone of its proceedings. Affidavits might be necessary in some cases, and where they were made before a court or a commission they should be permissible.

An Affidavit Denied.

The Premier concurred in the remarks of the previous speaker. He had, he said, just received a personal letter with regard to the affidavit read by Dr. Jamieson (South Grey), the other day, which sustained the view taken by Mr. Carscallen. The Premier then read the letter, which was dated St. Thomas, March 18, 1901, and was as follows:—“On Tuesday last in the proceedings of the Ontario Legislature I read that Dr. Jamieson, M.P.P., for South Grey, read an affidavit from or purporting to have been made by one John Vail, at that time, June, 1899, said to have been a resident of London, but whose present place of abode is unknown.

“Now in this affidavit my name is mentioned as one who was giving instructions to a gang of personators in the Provincial bye-election of January, 1899. I immediately notified Dr. Jamieson, M.P.P., that he had read a false and fraudulent affidavit, and that as far as I was concerned it was the rankest perjury and lying that could be perpetrated, and was a personal injury to my good name and standing, and requesting Dr. Jamieson, M.P.P., to state my contradiction from his place in the House.

“Dr. Jamieson has so far failed to acknowledge the receipt of my letter, and I find on consulting my solicitor that he is privileged to read and say what he sees fit on the floor of the Legislature. I have published a full and emphatic denial in both The Daily Journal and Times of this city. I have also lodged an information with County Crown Attorney D. J. Donohue, charging Vail with perjury, and I want this matter pushed, even if Vail has to be extradited, as I will not lay under this lying charge.

“Kindly make the contents of this letter known to the Legislature, and ob-