

Age, yours sincerely, Henry A. Branton."

Mr. Whitney Differs.

Mr. Whitney said:—I am pleased to see the short turn which the Premier has taken. There is a great deal to be said on both sides of this question. When an affidavit, ridiculous on the face of it, was read by the hon. gentleman from Brockville the other night my hon. friend the Premier not only approved of it, but testified an almost childish delight at the reading of the affidavit. Not only so, but his supporters were summoned in a body to cheer and acclaim the editing of the affidavit by my hon. friend from Brockville as he went on.

Author of the Practice.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said the members all seemed to be of the view that that practice was to be deprecated. "I would like to say, however," he continued, "that it was the hon. gentleman (Mr. Whitney) who initiated the practice here. (Hear, hear.) Although Bossard's affidavit may have given rise to some amusement in this House, that party swore to his affidavit in this country, and might be prosecuted for perjury. If affidavits are to be read as such, it is better that they should be made before functionaries in this Province, so that the parties making them could at all events be exposed to prosecution for perjury than that they should be sworn to across the Detroit River, and the parties making them not liable. (Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Whitney Defiant.

Mr. Whitney asked how prosecutions for perjury could be initiated when it was only copies of affidavits which were read in the House. The last had not been heard of the affidavit to which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson) had referred in such warm tones. "No act of my public life," he declared, "has ever given me more satisfaction than reading the affidavits of Pritchett. He is not only amenable to punishment, but he has defied prosecution, both in the country and through his mouth-piece in the House of Commons."

On Trial by Affidavits.

Mr. Pattullo (North Oxford) said that the hon. member from Hamilton had done excellent service in bringing the question to the attention of the House. "I was somewhat surprised, however," he continued, "at the remarks of the Opposition leader, who has expressed pride at being not exactly the father of the Pritchett affidavit, I cannot say that—"

Mr. Whitney—You had better not say it. It will be untrue, to your own personal knowledge.

Mr. Pattullo—The hon. gentleman is proud of having read it in this House. I only desire to observe this, that the Liberal party has been on trial by affidavits read in the House and peddled about the country, affidavits of self-confessed scoundrels which have been peddled about the country. The great Liberal party has been put on trial by affidavits of that sort." Mr. Pattullo again congratulated Mr. Carscadden on the stand he had taken, and pointed out that while Mr. Whit-

ney was proud of one affidavit (the Pritchett), he had contended that Bossard's affidavit was ridiculous. That was an inconsistent attitude. Mr. Pattullo also reminded the Opposition that Bossard's affidavit showed that he was not a worker for the Liberal party, but for the Opposition.

Bills Advanced.

The following public bills were then given their second reading:—

Mr. Fox—For the better protection of drainage work. This provides that where a drain necessarily passes through lands belonging to parties not directly benefited the owners of the latter have no recourse to damages. The Attorney-General opposed the measure, but it will be dealt with in committee.

Dr. Bridgland—To amend the agriculture and arts act by providing that agricultural societies in Muskoka receive the full grant of \$140 per year.

Mr. Lucas—To relieve trustees from responsibility when a breach of trust is on technical grounds, and not owing to dishonesty.

Mr. Wardell—To give authority to the Cities of Hamilton and Ottawa to pay their Police Commissioners. Hon. Mr. Davis expressed the view that action should not be taken until the cities interested requested it.

Committee on Agriculture.

Before adjournment the Premier announced the following as the Committee on Agriculture:—Hon. Mr. Dryden, Hon. Mr. Davis, Messrs. Barber, Breithaupt, Brown, Burt, Caldwell, Carpenter, Charlton, Dickenson, Douglas, Farwell, Guibord, Hill, Hislop, Holmes, Leys, Loughrin, Lumsden, Malcolm, Mutrie, McKee, Pardo, Pattullo, Richardson, Smith, Truax, Tay-

lor, Allen, Brower, Beatty (Leeds), Carnegie, Crawford, Dempsey, Duff, Eilber, Fallis, Fox, Jessop, Kidd, Little, Macdiarmid, Monteith, McLaughlin, Reid (Durham), Reid (Addington), Robson, Tucker, Whitney—49.

The Premier stated subsequently that it was intended to call the committee together at an early day.

The House adjourned at 4.40 p.m.

Detroit Veterans' Request.

Col. J. P. McMillan, who is interested in the legislation now in progress in the Legislature in relation to lands for the veterans of 1866 and 1870, yesterday sent a petition to the Government, which he received from the Canadian Veterans' Association of Detroit, signed by thirty-six of its members residing in that city, asking to be included in the grant. They intimate that there are about 80 there altogether. In a letter from the President, Mr. John R. Wood, annexed to the petition, it is stated that quite a number of them in the event of obtaining the grants will return to Canada and settle on the land, and that in the case of those who from age and infirmity are incapable to go on the lands themselves their sons will do so. The President also thanks the Colonel, on behalf of the association, for the interest he has taken in their behalf.