

After some moments of hesitation the Speaker put the question, and on a division the amendment was lost by eleven. It was understood that Mr. Whitney took the position that he would not speak if he was to be followed by both Mr. Stratton and Mr. Ross, while on the other hand it was stated that Mr. Stratton would have concluded the debate on the Government side. The failure of Mr. Whitney to take part in the debate was the occasion of much speculation and comment in the corridors, and the sudden climax was a great disappointment to the crowded galleries.

The principal speech of the day was made by Hon. Mr. Davis, who, in a careful address of upwards of two hours, dealt in a thorough manner with the Government's policy with regard to the Crown domains, and subjected the Opposition's amendment to a searching criticism. The decks are now cleared for the Premier's prohibition bill, which will be the first item on to-day's order paper.

To Amend San Jose Scale Act.

The following public bills were introduced:—

Hon. Mr. Dryden—To amend the San Jose scale act by providing that any person becoming aware that any plant or tree is infested with the scale must destroy such plant or tree by fire or by effectual treatment by fumigation, or by spraying with crude petroleum, kerosene or soap, or by any other material prescribed by the Minister; also providing that townships may, on petition of fifteen ratepayers, appoint a San Jose scale inspector, such inspector to be the black-knot inspector, if there be such an official.

Col. Leys (London)—To amend the street railway act by making the provision requiring the use of approved fenders applicable to street railway companies now or hereafter incorporated or established under any special act.

Mr. Tucker (West Wellington)—To amend the County Councils act by providing that County Councils shall consist of the Reeves of all villages and townships and the Reeves of towns not separated from the county.

School Book Evidence.

Before the orders of the day were called Col. Matheson (South Lanark) asked if the evidence taken by the

School Book Commission was ready yet for presentation to the House.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt said he had been informed by the Chairman and Secretary of the commission that the evidence had not been taken in full. Some shorthand notes had been taken for the benefit of the commission. The commissioners themselves had also taken notes. Those notes and any other papers that had been used in the investigation were in the hands of the commissioners in making their report. He had asked the Chairman of the board to furnish such evidence as they had taken or obtained in answer to the order of the House.

Col. Matheson—It is a most extraordinary thing that we were not informed of this before.

Mr. Whitney—It is trifling with the whole subject. The motion was made in due course, and not a hint was given of this fact before. Now to-day, after what we have heard, the hon. gentleman tells us there is no evidence.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt replied that his hon. friend's remarks were not quite fair. He could have given no hint as to a question on which he had no information. The only information he had had was contained in the printed pamphlet, which had been in the hands of the members for five or six long years, and which contained much of the evidence taken. Fault had been found with the fullness of the pamphlet. Now it was said it was not full enough. He himself had no knowledge of the proceedings of the commission, other than that which was open to every member of the House. When the evidence had all been taken the commissioners consulted and made their report. Such portions of the evidence as they thought material to their finding were incorporated in the pamphlet. The Chairman would at the earliest possible moment have the notes extended. There was nothing to conceal. Every jot and tittle of the evidence supported the case of the Government. (Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Foy Concludes.

Mr. Foy (South Toronto), in resuming his speech in the debate on the budget, denied that the "trust" funds could be used to pay the liabilities of the Province, and said that their very name indicated that fact. The contention of the Premier that the Opposition's opposing of the supplementary revenue tax on corporations indicated their (the Opposition's) friendship to corporations was entirely erroneous and misleading. The tax had been opposed because it was unnecessary, as there was already a large surplus in the treasury. The Opposition's position was justified by the fact that the corporations that were then required to pay a Provincial tax were at the same time relieved of a large proportion of their municipal taxation. Half a million of the present sur-

Feb 11/02

*over*