

REFERENDUM

DECEMBER 4.

13
Legislature May Con-
clude Business
To-day.

RAILWAY AID.

Resolutions Passed the House
Yesterday.

CIVIL ENGINEERS' BILL

Declared Lost on Division—No Sus-
pension of the Anti-Trading
Stamp Law — Busy Day in the
House.

Very rapid progress was made in the Legislature yesterday, and from the clearance made in the order paper it is believed that the work of the session will be concluded to-night or to-morrow morning. In that event prorogation will take place on Monday or Tuesday. Apart from the sadness which characterized the opening scenes yesterday morning, on the announcement of the death of Mrs. Ross, the day was one of steady and unremitting work. Early in the afternoon the railway resolutions, including a supplementary list, made public yesterday, were passed, making votes totalling some \$700,000. The

liquor bill was again considered in committee, when Hon. Mr. Gibson, who was leading the House in the Premier's absence, announced that the date of the referendum had been fixed for December 4th. Mr. Marter presented a number of amendments, which will be voted on at third reading to-day. Mr. Gross' bill respecting civil engineers, which has met with considerable criticism, was lost on division. Late in the evening a motion by Mr. Pettypiece, to suspend the action of the anti-trading stamp law until April 1, 1903, was defeated. The Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway bill passed its third reading.

Before the orders of the day were taken up Chief Justice Armour was escorted to the Speaker's chair. The Clerk of the House read the proclamation appointing the Chief Justice as Administrator pro tem., with power to assent to measures passed and to prorogue the House. His Lordship then assented to the Attorney-General's bills providing for the revision of the statute law, and the act respecting mortmain and the disposition of lands for charitable purposes, after which he left the Chamber.

Stoney Creek Grant.

Col. Matheson (South Lanark), on the Public Accounts Committee report being presented, said that under present conditions it was absolutely impossible to thoroughly examine into the accounts of the Province in the Public Accounts Committee. The committee was not able to hold more than eight or nine meetings during a session of the House, and the mere physical labor of looking into the accounts made it impossible to thoroughly examine more than two or three accounts. The principal matter investigated this session was the Government grant of \$4,000 to the Dickson Lumber Company for work on Stoney Creek dams. The grant, he said, was made on an estimate that the work would cost \$13,000, but had been paid when only \$8,000 had been expended, and that was practically all that was spent on the work. It was a remarkable thing that at the time the check for the grant was received no man in the company's employ except the foreman of the woods department knew that such a grant was to be made. There was no special need for this grant. The company was a

wealthy one, and the works were of no benefit to anyone but themselves.

Third Readings.

The following bills were read a third time :—

The Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway act—Hon. Mr. Latchford.

To provide for the removal of obstructions in rivers and streams in certain cases—Hon. Mr. Latchford.

To confer certain powers on the trustees of the will of the late John Bacon—Dr. Pyne.

March 12/02