

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1903.

BUDGET SPEECH TO-DAY.

PREMIER ROSS WILL OCCUPY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Legislature Held a Fifteen-minute Session Yesterday — Niagara Power Agreement Not to be Submitted to the House—The Dana Appointment.

The Legislature held a fifteen-minute session yesterday afternoon. Three first readings of bills and two answers to questions completed the day's work. To-day's session will be largely occupied by Premier Ross' budget speech.

After the first readings Mr. Whitney in the absence of Mr. Foy asked whether the Government, since last session, had entered into any agreement with the Toronto & Niagara Power Company or others to take water from the Niagara or Welland Rivers for generating power, and, if so, is it the intention of the Government to submit any such agreement to the Legislature, at its present session, for ratification?

Mr. Ross replied as follows:—"An agreement has been made between the Niagara Power Companies and the Niagara Falls Park Commissioners, which agreement will, I understand, appear in the annual report of the commissioner, to be laid on the table in a few days. It is not the intention to submit such agreement to the Legislature for ratification."

In reply to Mr. Whitney's further question the Premier said that they were not required by statute to submit the agreement to the Legislature for ratification.

Mr. Whitney also asked whether any timber license had been granted by the Crown Lands Department since January 1st, 1902, to one Shannon, and was any such license afterwards transferred; if so, to whom? What locality was covered by it, and what was the extent of it? What was paid for it by Shannon? What was paid for it by the present holders? Was the transaction a bona fide one on the part of Shannon, or did he represent another person or persons?

Mr. Ross replied that owing to the absence of Mr. White, the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, who had been obliged to attend the commission, he could not yet answer the question. He hoped to be able to answer it to-day, but Mr. White was liable to be absent longer on account of the illness of Mr. Bridgland.

Mr. Matheson said that it was im-

portant that the question should be answered before the budget speech.

Mr. Ross replied that he intended to make his budget speech to-day, but the question would be answered before the speech if possible.

To a question by Mr. Whitney concerning the retirement of Sheriff Dana of Leeds and Grenville, Mr. Gibson replied as follows:—"Sheriff Dana resigned his office by letter, dated March 18, 1902. Reasons for such resignation are set forth in the letter of resignation, which, with the other papers connected with the matter, may be brought down on the motion for return of which notice has been given. No application for reappointment seems to have been made, but Mr. Dana's reappointment to fill the vacancy was recommended to the Government in the usual way. The second commission differed from the former commission in omitting any provision on behalf of ex-Sheriff Smart, the reason being that ex-Sheriff Smart appeared determined to insist upon payment of the full \$1,200 a year, although the net receipts of the office were either less than or but slightly over that amount. The Government assumed no responsibility in regard to the question of Mr. Dana's liability on the bond given to his predecessor or the effect upon such liability of his resignation and reappointment."

The following bills were given first readings:—

Mr. Preston—An act to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Matheson—An act in respect to the auditing of municipal and school accounts.

Dr. Barr—An act to amend the assessment act.

The House adjourned at 3.30 o'clock.

The Private Bills, Standing Orders and Railway Committees will meet this morning.