

THE SHANNON TIMBER DEAL.

Mr. Davis Says it Was a Bona Fide Transaction.

HOURS OF FEMALE LABOR.

Mr. Powell's Bill to Regulate Them.

Bill to Authorize Municipal Coal Yards — Question Day in the Legislature—Municipal Act To-day.

The Legislature sat for only fifteen minutes yesterday, and transacted routine business. There was a holiday air, after the heavy work of the previous day, and members' minds wandered to the Horse Show, to which their complimentary tickets seemed to beckon them. Although nothing was said publicly on the matter, an impression prevailed that there was a more than accidental coincidence in the early adjournment. With the mental promise that they would work all the harder on the morrow, they betook themselves hence before 4 o'clock, entirely at peace with their consciences. Several questions were answered, the most important being one by Mr. Whitney respecting the timber license acquired by Patrick Shannon for \$250. Mr. Davis gave details, and said the transaction was a bona fide one so far as the department was concerned, and that the department was not aware who were the present holders. Mr. Powell and Mr. Murphy presented Ottawa's sessional batch of legislation, one of the bills providing for municipal coal yards, and another for shorter hours for female labor.

Many Questions.

Mr. Ross informed Dr. Barr that no money had been paid to any municipality towards the establishment of a municipal cold-storage station.

Col. Gibson read to Mr. J. J. Foy a list of 23 persons who had been appointed to office or promoted in the civil service since March 1, 1903.

Mr. Davis informed Col. Matheson that it was the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to extend the time for filing claims for volunteer land grants.

Mr. Dryden informed Mr. Carnegie (West Victoria) that the amounts paid for student labor at Ontario Agricultural College in recent years had been as follows:—1899, \$4,236; 1900, \$5,016; 1901, \$5,336; 1902, \$5,924.

Col. Gibson informed Mr. Duff (West Simcoe) that Mr. James W. Bettes was Sheriff of Muskoka at the present time. The Government had not been formally advised of his intention to resign, though in a conversation with the Attorney-General he had spoken as if contemplating the possibility of such action on his part.

Mr. Ross informed Col. Matheson that Alfred McDougall had assigned to the Treasury Department life insurance policies amounting to \$20,000, on which \$1,150 premium was paid in 1902. The department had made no valuation of the surrender value of such policies. They were only running for a short time when they were assigned to the Province.

Mr. Ross informed Col. Matheson that 231,000 pounds of binder twine were manufactured at the Central Prison in the season of 1902, and that it was now being manufactured daily.

Shannon's Timber Deal.

Mr. Davis, replying to Mr. Whitney, said that a timber license was issued on May 1, 1902, to Patrick Shannon. It was transferred by Patrick Shannon to the Traders' Bank on July 29, 1902, and was again transferred by the Traders' Bank to the Molsons Bank on April 8th, 1903. The license covered the northwest quarter and the northeast quarter of section 23 and northwest quarter of section 24, Township of Rutherford, and also unsurveyed lands north of above sections, covering an area of 40 x 80 chains. The total area of the whole territory, sections and unsurveyed lands, was one and one-quarter square miles. Shannon paid \$250 as bonus and \$1.25 per thousand feet B. M. was to be paid as the timber was cut. The department did not know what was paid for it by the present holders, and the transaction was a bona fide one on the part of Shannon, so far as the department knew or now knows.

Mr. Davis informed Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) that no charge was made for free grant homestead lands anywhere in the Province. They were free in fact as well as in name. In addition to their free grant homestead lands settlers were allowed to purchase (a) in Thunder Bay district 160 acres at 50 cents per acre, (b) in Rainy River district 80 acres at \$1 per acre. On May 18, 1899, the lands in the Rainy River district were withdrawn from the free grant list and ordered to be sold at 50 cents per acre. On May 3rd, 1900, those lands were restored to the free grant list. There were no free grant lands in Dryden district, lands there being sold at 50 cents per acre.

Knew it All the Time.

Before the orders of the day were called Mr. Whitney drew attention to a statement in The Globe that the House had been surprised on Tuesday at the sudden collapse of the budget debate. He said the statement was altogether untrue, as the debate had proceeded just as far as it had been intended at any time to extend it. He also took exception to the report in The Mail of his explanation. His statement, he said, had been that the understanding was that the House would be as free to discuss the matters on a motion that the Speaker leave the chair as though the budget debate was in progress.

Mr. Ross said his hon. friend had stated what occurred on Tuesday as he (Mr. Ross) understood it.

Programme for To-day.

Mr. Ross then explained that there had been such a shower of bills the printers were unable to keep up, and there was little material for the House to work on. The bill respecting municipal power plants had been distributed during the day, but he thought it better to wait until the report of the Niagara Falls Park Commissioners and of experts who were employed to report on the available power sites remaining had been received. These he expected on Monday. He suggested taking up the bill respecting municipal taxation to-morrow (Thursday). It was intended to refer that bill to a small special committee if agreeable to the House, who could hear further evidence if desired. If the committee was a good practical committee and found no particular difficulties the bill would probably be disposed of this session, as the question had been before the House in a somewhat uncertain condition for some time. He hoped other Government bills would be down very soon. The balance of Thursday would be spent in supply.

The House adjourned at 3.35 p.m.

Property Qualification.

Mr. D. Murphy (Ottawa) introduced a bill to amend the assessment act by providing that courts of revision in

cities shall consist of five members instead of three, and that four shall be appointed by the City Council and one by the Mayor.

Mr. Murphy also introduced a bill to amend the municipal act by reducing the property qualification necessary for voters from \$400 to \$200 in real property.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) introduced a bill providing that the Council of any township may by by-law provide for taking the assessment between the 1st of February and 1st of July.

Mr. John Brown (North Perth) introduced a bill providing for the election of water commissioners by by-law.

Mr. C. B. Powell (Ottawa) has introduced bills providing that street car companies provide seats for all passengers, and indicate when the cars are filled by signs; requiring the payment of overtime at the rate of time and a half to all women employed in shops and factories for over nine hours per day, under severe penalties for violation; giving power to municipalities to pay day laborers for the "Labor Day" holiday, and compelling hotelkeepers or others who rent commercial sample rooms to take out licenses.

McDougall's Obligations.

Col. Matheson will ask:—What is the date and what amount of bond given by A. McDougall? Has it been paid? Is payment disputed? What are the dates and amounts of the various insurance policies assigned to the Province by A. McDougall? In addition to the moneys handed over by Alfred McDougall to the Provincial Treasurer, what moneys did he receive and hand over by his own personal check, at dates later than his receipt of said moneys?

Mr. Hanna will ask:—Are Cane Bros. of Newmarket cutting timber this season and did they cut last season on certain islands in the Georgian Bay, under license from the Crown Lands Department, near Point au Baril? Did they secure the right to so cut, if they did cut, or are now cutting, at public auction or by private arrangement with the department? If any timber was cut last season what number of feet were so cut, and were dues paid upon the same?