

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1903

GAMEY REPORT HANDED OVER.

Members Were Consumed With
Curiosity.

WHITNEY WOULD ADJOURN

Mr. Lucas the Medium of the
News.

House Concurs in the Estimates and
Does a Lot of Other Business.

The Gamey commission's report was uppermost in the minds of the members of the Legislature yesterday, though otherwise a good day's business was done. The rumor was general during the forenoon that it would be presented, and there was a full attendance of expectant members when the House opened shortly after 3. The Premier was seen to have a tape-girdled volume on his desk, and, yielding to the atmosphere of curiosity, he presented it formally to the Speaker as soon as the ordinary formal preliminaries were over. This was at 24 minutes past 3. Most of the members expected it would be read by the Clerk, or that some means would be at once taken of acquainting the House of its contents. What happened was that the Premier merely read the superscription, a formal statement to the effect that it was the report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the charges made against James Robert Stratton by Robert Roswell Gamey on March 11, and it was carried by a page to the Clerk's table. The report had been in the Premier's hands since about 1 o'clock, and had been read, at least in part, by the Ministers at the afternoon Council meeting. Its purport rapidly filtered through the Government benches.

Members in the Dark.

But meantime the Opposition members were entirely in the dark. The suspense was continued by a discussion between Mr. Whitney and the Premier as to the propriety of adjourning. This over, and the ordinary business being proceeded with, measures were at once taken individually to ascertain the facts. The first to move was Mr. Lucas, the youthful-looking member for Centre Grey. He went at once to the Clerk's table and carried the report back to the desk he shares with Mr. St. John. They were quickly surrounded by Mr. Hanna, Mr. Reid, Dr. Nesbitt and other Opposition members. Mr. Lucas read extracts in a low tone for their benefit, while members of the group moved away at intervals, circulating the news. Mr. Gamey sat a couple of seats to the left for a few minutes, his head down, evincing no interest in the report, which meant so much to his future. Shortly afterwards he went back to his own seat, at the north end of the chamber, where Mr. Reid visited him, an envoy from the knot concentrated about the report. By 4 o'clock, however, Mr. Gamey left the chamber, remaining absent about an hour. On his return, and during the evening, he was seldom in his own seat, moved from seat to seat, but had little to say to anybody. Mr. Stratton wore a more happy air, and moved freely among his fellow-members on the Government

side, and with friends on the floor of the House.

Wanted an Adjournment.

Mr. Whitney, after the report had been laid on the table, said that at the beginning of the session the Government had asked for and obtained an adjournment because the Government did not feel like doing business while the charges were standing. The Cabinet had been discussing the report, and its contents were known to other members of the House, but he thought that in such an important matter the House should adjourn to allow the members to acquaint themselves with a matter so important.

Mr. Ross said the House had been in session part of the time during the sitting of the commission. It was intended to have the report printed immediately for the use of members, and it would be in order for any member to move its adoption or to discuss it for one, two, three or four weeks. The House could pronounce judgment on the report, accept it or reject it. He did not see any necessity for any adjournment at this stage. They could proceed with business leisurely, and not create the impression that they wanted to adjourn without giving members a chance to discuss it.

Mr. Whitney said the question of the report far overbalanced and overwhelmed any petty question as to whether they should sit there or not. He was not certain that his hon. friend was correct that the proper course would be in any event to adopt the report. It was not a report of the House or of any committee belonging to the House; it was merely the report of certain individuals who were ordered to do certain things for the House. In the investigation in 1834-5 the report of the commissioners was merely received, leaving the House to take any substantive action they chose.

Mr. Ross said he did not know that the House would have to adopt the report. In the Parnell case, however, the report was adopted by the House. In reply to Mr. Foy, he said the evidence would be submitted as an appendix to the report.

Regulating Loan Companies.

Col. Gibson introduced an amendment to the loan corporations amendment act to meet the objections made by Mr. Downey a few days ago about the class of business done by some companies in issuing terminating shares. The registrar of loan companies is given power, if he finds any company's by laws unjust, to order them to be withdrawn, and in case of non-compliance to strike the company's name from the register.

Cumulative Voting Criticized.

Under consideration in Committee of the House, Hon. Mr. Harcourt's bill to amalgamate the Public, High and Technical School Boards, Mr. S. Russell (E. Hastings) upheld the system of cumulative voting.

Mr. Crawford (W. Toronto) thought the best method would be to elect by wards; two members for each ward. The cumulative system might result in organizations electing representatives by no means suitable from an educational point of view. It might even lead to the introduction of party politics. By a ward system all districts, central and outlying, would be able to have their interests represented.

Mr. Whitney thought the cumulative system a fardangle experiment. If it were a right system it should be used generally.

Mr. Ross said that the purpose of the cumulative vote was to broaden the franchise. He objected to the word system when limiting the board to about a dozen members.

Dr. Beattie Nesbitt said that the Premier spoke of not limiting the area to be represented. If that principle had been in force at the recent general elections the leader of the Opposition, with a popular majority of several thousands, would now be Premier. He objected to any experiment being tried on Toronto.

Hon. R. Harcourt replied that the ward system resulted in the utmost sectionalism. Everyone who had ever