

MAY CONCLUDE ON SATURDAY.

Legislature Working Towards a Definite End.

MORE TIMBER INQUIRIES.

Cane Bros' and Chew Bros'. Limits in Question.

Col. Matheson Wants to Summon More Witnesses—Still Hesitating on Printing of Gamey Evidence.

Hesitating between two opinions, the Legislature could not decide yesterday whether to hurry on and finish work this week or to consent at once to a further investigation being commenced in the Public Accounts Committee that might last a couple of weeks. The subject for the inquiry was proposed by Col. Matheson, and concerns timber limits on Georgian Bay islands granted to Cane Brothers, and limits in Capreol township, granted to Chew Brothers, from the sale of which T. C. Taylor and "Cap." Sullivan reaped \$1,900 each. The other business of the day was uneventful except for the furtive flittings of Mr. Gamey, whose time in the House was short, but included short visits to Mr. Whitney and Mr. Downey. He had something in which he tried to interest these gentlemen, but they did not seem very responsive to his seductive pleadings.

More Timber Transactions.

Col. Matheson moved that the grant of timber limits on islands in the Georgian Bay to Messrs. Cane Brothers and the grant of timber limits in the township of Capreol to Messrs. Chew Brothers, and all matters in any way connected with the said limits and the consideration given therefor, be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts for investigation, and that Messrs. Thomas Chew, George Chew, Manly Chew and Edwin Leatherby or Edward Leatherby of Midland be summoned to appear before the said committee on Wednesday next at 10 a.m. with all books and papers relating to the said limits, including the books of the former firm of Chew Brothers, relating to the limits in the township of Capreol.

Situation Serious.

The Public Accounts Committee, Col. Matheson said, would probably sit for the last time on Wednesday or Thursday at the latest. There were, however, some matters that ought to be examined, and which in the ordinary course of events could not come before the committee until Friday at least. A very serious matter had come up. Two men, one an official of the Government, and the other a person who had been in their employ in connection with election matters, had between them made over \$12,000 out of trading in Crown property, and property of the Province to the extent of over \$80,000 had been given away without any value. Therefore it became the House to investigate these matters.

Col. Gibson said that he hardly thought the hon. gentleman could ex-

pect to carry such a resolution, proposing to take up an extensive inquiry into these matters from the very beginning, a matter which would delay the House for a long time.

Col. Matheson—I think we could get through it in two days.

Col. Gibson said the matter went back to the time of the Hon. Mr. Hardy. It would take two or three weeks. He did not suppose that an inquiry into these matters, to do justice, could be completed in one, two or three days, at the rate at which that committee seemed able to make progress, and therefore he thought that the Government would not be right in allowing the resolution to pass at the present time.

Must be in Order.

Mr. Ross said they had no information as to these matters before the House. They were asked to project an investigation without any notice. It would be perfectly in order to put a notice on the paper, so that they would know what was involved. The period covered the regime of practically three Commissioners of Crown Lands. How was the Crown Lands Department to get the papers ready for the investigation in two or three days? It was a matter of moment, and they should proceed in such a way as to know what they were doing.

Mr. Whitney said that the man did not live who was clever enough to get proper treatment and to discover anything practically of any use in the proceedings of certain committees of the House. The evidence was before the country, and for the first time connected these men with proceedings which were reprehensible; with improper use of public money. Mr. Whitney thought not more than a couple of days would be needed, and he paid a compliment to the present Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, though he thought that the conduct of some of the committee's members was simply disgusting.

Mr. Ross—I am quite willing to stay here for the next week, or the next

month, if necessary. The rules of the House, however, he said, were entitled to some respect. They could put a simple motion on the paper, and it would come up to-day, and then witnesses could be summoned.

Colonel Matheson—Will you consent to a notice of motion for to-morrow?

Mr. Ross—Yes, certainly.

The Lorne Park Accident.

Mr. Thomas Crawford (West Toronto) drew attention to the accident at the Lorne Park wharf on Saturday, by which a number of people were precipitated into the water. He wanted to know if there was any proper method of inspection to prevent such accidents.

Mr. Ross thought the supervision of wharves was in the hands of the Dominion authorities. He deplored the accident, and promised to see if the Province had any power in the matter.

Col. Gibson thought the municipalities had power to inspect.

Mr. Harcourt withdrew his bill respecting the Education Department.

Mr. D. C. Cameron's bill respecting the town of Rat Portage was referred back, and an amendment inserted by Mr. Conmee, which was not read to the House, which, he said was to facilitate the work of arbitration in connection with the Rat Portage power plant.

Markham v. Aurora.

Mr. Davis' bill respecting the town of Aurora was referred back. Mr. Davis moved an amendment providing that the \$300 provided in the bill to cover legal costs of the dispute with Markham respecting the capture of the shoe factory from that town be accepted in full satisfaction of any claim for damages or otherwise.

Mr. Richardson (East York) moved a further amendment that \$1,000 damages be paid by Aurora to Markham, in addition to the \$300 for solicitors and clients' costs.

Mr. Richardson's amendment was lost on a vote, and the bill reported as amended by Mr. Davis.

Loan Companies' Methods.

Mr. Downey moved for a return of copies of all contracts or agreements issued by loan companies, under which weekly or monthly collections are made on shares or as deposits.

Col. Gibson suggested a different form for the motion, to make it refer to forms of subscriptions for terminating stock.

Mr. Downey regretted that it was too late in the session to bring in legislation to make loan companies describe more accurately what was meant by terminating shares.

Col. Gibson pointed out that the Government were not responsible, as it was half a century since companies were allowed to incorporate under the terms complained of by Mr. Downey. People were led astray by the personal canvasser, which was a modern innovation. The motion would, however, fit in very well with the changes this year in the loan companies act.

The motion was carried.

Col. Gibson's bill respecting local works and improvements was referred back and amended to make some of its provisions clearer.

Talk of Prorogation.

Before adjournment the Premier said there seemed to be a disposition to try to finish this week, and he asked if they could not begin morning sessions by Wednesday or Thursday.

Mr. Whitney did not think morning sessions were necessary at all.

Mr. Ross—Will my hon. friend sit up later than usual?

Mr. Whitney—Certainly I will. I think we could get through this week, especially if we sit on Saturday.

In reply to Mr. Whitney, Mr. Ross said the Government were having the addresses of counsel in the Gamey case printed, but were still hesitating on the evidence on the question of expense.

"It strikes me that the public mind would be better satisfied if the evidence would be get-at-able in the future," observed Mr. Whitney.

"It will be preserved," the Premier responded, amid laughter.

"Mr. Taylor has \$2,200 in the bank which you might attach," suggested Col. Matheson.

"There is lots of money," replied Col. Gibson.

The Premier promised to give some sort of an answer to-day.

The House adjourned at 4.25 p.m.

Many Questions.

Mr. St. John gives notice of a sheaf of questions respecting the Crown Lands Department in general, and the Chew Bros' limit in Capreol township in particular. He also wants to know if the Royal Commission on Finance audited the Crown Lands books, and if not why not.

Mr. St. John also will ask if Aemilius Irving, K.C., was sent to North Grey to investigate reported irregularities, and if he made any report.

Mr. Lucas will inquire if the ballots, etc., used in the North Grey election on May 29th, 1902, have been burnt, under the provision of the statute.

Object to Exemption.

About fifteen ratepayers from Niagara Falls called upon Premier Ross yesterday morning to object to the proposed exemption of the Ontario Power Company from taxation. The bill which is now before the House grants exemption without submitting the matter to the ratepayers. The deputation asked to have it passed upon by a vote of the ratepayers.