

**WANT LARGER
SUBSIDIES.**

Province Memorializes the Dominion.

THE QUEBEC RESOLUTIONS

Subsidy to the Nepigon Railway.

Brisk Debate on Mr. Conmee's Relation Thereto—Legislature Adjourns Until Tuesday.

A busy time was spent by the Legislature yesterday on its fifty-third day of the session, when the business, with the exception of the consideration of the Gamey commission's report, possibly some assistance to railways, and one or two small matters, was all concluded. A brisk debate took place on the motion to transfer the subsidy to the St. Joe Railway to any other railway which would build from Lake Nepigon to the C. P. R., forty miles in length. Mr. Conmee's interest in the enterprise and his support of the resolution in the House was criticized by Mr. Whitney, but the motion carried. The estimates were all passed, and the bills not previously assented to were made law by the Lieut.-Governor in person. In the afternoon the resolutions passed at the Interprovincial Conference in December last, asking for an increase in Dominion subsidies, were concurred in, though opposed by Mr. Whitney and his followers as not securing enough for this Province. The House then adjourned until Tuesday afternoon, and on Wednesday morning the Gamey Commission's report will be taken up.

The Premier announced that the sessional indemnity of \$1,000 to members was only temporary for this session under the extraordinary circumstances. It was his view that \$800 was about right for future years under ordinary conditions. He also announced the appointment of Mr. Alex. Fraser as Provincial archivist, a new official, at \$1,500 a year.

Nepigon Railway.

Mr. Latchford moved that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may transfer the subsidy of the Thunder Bay, Nepigon & St. Joe Railway Company to any company that undertakes to build a railway from Lake Nepigon to the C.P.R. He said that the Nepigon Fish Company had undertaken to build a road, by the terms of their charter, but it was not to be expected that they would do so without some assistance. The road was about forty miles long, and the "St. Joe" grant was \$3,000 a mile and 5,000 acres of land a mile.

Mr. Whitney's Objections.

Mr. Whitney said that this was a most outrageous scheme. The Nepigon Fish Company had already been given great concessions, and had undertaken to build the road in return for those concessions. It would have been too barefaced to have offered a straight subsidy, and so the Government asked for a company which, for all they knew, might still be in existence.

Mr. Conmee said that the new road—40 miles long—would open up a

country equal to an ordinary road of 250 miles, because the lake was 90 miles long and some forty miles wide. The undertaking was a meritorious one, and so deserving of aid.

Mr. Whitney—Let me ask the hon. gentleman whether he is not interested in the company.

Mr. Conmee—I want to tell the hon. gentleman frankly that I am, and why not? Why should I be debarred from taking an interest? If the hon. gentleman asks me whether I am a stockholder, I say no; I am interested only as a contractor.

A Justifiable Vote.

Mr. Whitney—Does the honorable gentleman mean to say that he has no interest in the fish company, otherwise than as a stockholder?

Mr. Conmee—The fish company? I was referring to the railway, but I will answer that, too. I am a stockholder in the fish company, and why should I not be?

Mr. Conmee justified his action because the enterprise was a meritorious one, and there was no reason why he should not do all in his power to assist in developing the country.

Mr. Whitney—There is nothing wrong in his being in the enterprise, but it is in his coming here to ask for aid.

Mr. Conmee—I dispute that proposition; there is nothing wrong in it morally or otherwise.

Mr. Whitney—I suppose the honorable gentleman will vote upon the question.

Mr. Conmee—Certainly I intend to vote. Continuing, Mr. Conmee explained the importance of the road, justifying the Government for assisting it. Some years ago he had been attacked for having an interest in the Port Arthur & Western road and for voting upon a motion to assist the road. He had a letter from the late Sir Oliver Mowat upholding his action.

A Good Proposition.

Mr. Ross reviewed the advantages to be obtained by the promotion of the road. A calm consideration would demonstrate that the proposal was one of the best that had been before the House for any similar purpose. A great sweep of northern country would be opened up, around Lake Nepigon. The road would reach to within a short distance of the Albany River, and all this was to be done at a small cost. They were looking ahead now. A great transcontinental road, the Grand Trunk Pacific, would be built north of Lake Nepigon, and the proposed road would be necessary to give old Ontario a chance to send supplies into that territory. The Nepigon Railway would do for western Ontario what the Temiskaming road would do for northern Ontario.

Mr. Foy opposed the measure, and Mr. Milton Carr spoke of the Government's railway policy, saying that it was, if anything, too slow.

A division was taken upon the motion and resulted in its favor by a vote of 37 to 33.

The House in committee assented to a number of sections of the statute law amendment law proposed by Col. Gibson. One amendment provides for an appeal under the controverted elections act in case of a failure of the trial Judges to agree.

Mr. Brown's bill respecting the town of Listowel was given a third reading, after a small amendment in committee.

Vote on Shannon Deal.

Mr. Ross moved that the House go into supply, and Mr. Whitney moved in amendment "That this House condemns the action of the Crown Lands Department in selling by private sale about May 1, 1902, a timber limit in the Township of Rutherford for a sum of \$250, which was shortly afterwards resold for \$9,000, and recommends that in future no sale of Crown lands be made unless by public competition."

The debate of the previous afternoon was taken as sufficient for the purpose of the amendment, and the vote was put and a division taken, resulting in the amendment being lost