

GAMEY REPORT IS NOW BEFORE THE FINAL COURT.

DEBATE OPENS IN LEGISLATURE WITH LEADERS' SPEECHES.

Premier Ross Moves the Adoption of the Report in a Speech of Great Logic and Calmness—Mr. Whitney Says Judges' Report is Partisan—Mr. Stratton Explains His Position and Criticizes Those Who Prejudged the Case.

After a thorough investigation by the Royal Commission and weeks of discussion by the press and the public, the Gamey sensation reverted once more yesterday to the chamber in which it had birth. The members of the Legislature, as a result, had one of the greatest days of debating of the session. The galleries were crowded continuously, and the attendance of members and their privileged friends on the floor of the House was as great as the space would accommodate. Both principals in the famous case were present during the entire day. Mr. Gamey evidently followed the speeches with much care, and Mr. Stratton was one of the speakers toward the end of the day.

The Premier began his address immediately on the opening of the House, shortly after 11, and he continued until it rose for luncheon at 1 o'clock, having spoken an hour and forty minutes. His address was one of the most clear and convincing of his recent utterances in the Legislature. It was apparent that he had himself under strong restraint, and the logic of his address was its distinguishing feature. He reviewed briefly the circumstances under which the charges were made, justified the method of dealing with them, and then adverted to the result. Rather than give his own opinion, he quoted from the Judges' report on points in dispute, thus giving the strongest support to his contention, that the report was just and impartial, a contention with which he had no doubt the country would agree.

Partisan, Says Mr. Whitney.

Mr. Whitney, who followed during the afternoon for two hours, was in excellent voice. He did not review the evidence in any great detail, but his address was in the nature of a criticism of the Judges' finding for its alleged partisan nature, the extremeness of which, he said, was more than the Liberals desired. He said many Liberals wanted yet to get rid of the Provincial Secretary. He also declared that the omissions from the report rendered it unacceptable to the general public.

Mr. Stratton's Vindication.

Mr. Stratton rose shortly before 6, and instantly everyone was attention to hear the first explanation to be made to his peers by the Minister who had been accused. Mr. Stratton commented severely on the prejudging of the case which had characterized the Opposition members and journals, and "the treacherous independent press" of this city. He then entered a formal and specific denial to the charge, and, proceeding, reviewed in much detail the evidence in the case as it related to himself. He had not concluded when the House adjourned at 10, having spoken two hours and a half. During the address Mr. Gamey exhibited uneasiness, and at one time rose to contradict a statement. The House will resume at 11 to-day, and Mr. Stratton will likely conclude before the 1 o'clock adjournment.

Mr. Lucas or Mr. Gamey is expected to follow, and in the former case Mr. M. G. Cameron will probably reply.

The Premier's Speech.

The Premier, on rising to move the resolution which stood in his name, was loudly applauded by his supporters. He began by reading the motion as follows:—

"That his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor having appointed a commission on the address of the Legislative Assembly to inquire into and investigate the charges of bribery set forth in the statement made to the Assembly on the 11th day of March last by Robert R. Gamey, member-elect of the District of Manitoulin, and the further statement made by him in the House on the 27th day of March last, and the report of the commissioners so appointed having been presented to the Legislative Assembly on the 4th day of June, instant, this House adopts the said report and thanks the commissioners for their just and impartial conduct in the matters referred to them."

An Important Session.

"The task assigned to me I do not consider a very difficult one," he went on. "The subject which will be before the House for the next few days is one that has been before us for some time. Important as it is, and engrossing as it has been, and still continues to be, I hope it will not be considered the greatest event of the session. We are finishing a session which, perhaps, might fairly be counted among one of the most useful sessions of the Legislature. We have been able to ask his Honor to assent to a series of bills that are far-reaching in importance. And, even entirely apart from the character of those matters which have now been before us, this session, I think, has been one of the most useful and progressive sessions, so far as legislation is concerned, that this Assembly had had for many years. To the minds of many, however, the charges made by the member for Manitoulin on the 11th of March loom up far more largely than the ordinary work of the Legislature. Naturally they attract a great deal of attention. They were worthy of a great deal of attention. They came upon the House the day after the opening of the session. They were quite unexpected, at least from this side of the House. They were not, I think, unexpected to many of the hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House."

Provincial Honor Involved.

"The charges were very specific; they were direct as to one member of the Government, considered by some to be direct as to us all, but certainly they involved the honor of the Government, and anything that involves the honor of the Government involves the honor of the great Liberal party. But, what is of still more importance, it involves the honor of the Province. If by any mischance, if by any offence on the part of the Government, the public men of Ontario were discredited or reproach cast upon the character of those who are responsible for legislation, the whole plane of political morality would have been greatly shaken in those charged with the responsible and high service of directing legislation, of promoting the moral and educational welfare of the people, and holding the Province of Ontario up