

THE DELAY IN NORTH RENFREW.

Mr. Foy's Amendment to the Address.

DISPUTE OVER THE FUNDS.

Dr. Pyne and Conservative Lawyers Claim Deposits.

Mr. A. G. MacKay Shows Why Elec- tion Trials Were Delayed—The Debate in the Legislature.

The easy pace of debate on the address by the rank and file of the Legislature began yesterday. Mr. Foy spoke for an hour and a quarter, in the course of which he argued that the rule was to call sessions later. He closed by moving an amendment expressing disapproval of the delay in holding the North Renfrew election. Mr. MacKay followed in a brief address of great strength. He quoted a declaration to show that the delay in holding the election trials was due to jangling among the Conservatives as to who was entitled to receive back the money put up as deposits in previous cases. Dr. Pyne, M.P.P., was shown to be a claimant for the deposit in North Grey. He also scored when he pointed out that the Conservative organizer in North Oxford was Robert Birmingham, who had schooled the men who committed the Manitoba election frauds. Mr. Lucas had barely begun his speech when the House rose at 6 o'clock. The debate on the address will likely last all week, and perhaps a portion of next week, as the whips will not want a division while so many members are absent in North Oxford.

Mr. Whitney presented a petition to give counties power to commit lunatics to asylums upon the certificate of two medical men at the instance of the Sheriff, and without the intervention of the county Judge or a Justice of the Peace nominated by him.

On motion of Premier Ross the following were appointed to strike standing committees for the session:—Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hon. E. J. Davis, Hon. J. R. Stratton, Messrs. J. F. Gross, A. M. Bowman, H. Dickenson, J. J. Foy, A. J. Matheson, J. P. Whitney, H. Carscallen and Dr. W. A. Willoughby.

The Assessment Bill.

Colonel Gibson, before the orders of the day were reached, referred to the select committee appointed at the last session on the assessment laws of the Province. The committee, he said, had been appointed especially to sit during the recess between the sessions with a view to completing or maturing the measure before the House last session. He presumed that the effect of the meeting of the House was that the committee had lapsed technically. He would like to have an informal meeting of the committee, notwithstanding that it had lapsed, so that he might be able to lay before them the result of their deliberations as formulated since the last meeting. His object was to introduce the bill afresh, as it came from the committee, and to

have it again referred to the same committee when it received its second reading, to give it whatever further consideration might be desirable after the discussion in the House. He therefore proposed to call an informal meeting for Thursday of this week.

Mr. Foy's Criticisms.

Mr. Foy resumed the debate on the address. He congratulated the Premier upon his vigorous speech, though after analyzing its substance he thought the speech was full of weaknesses, particularly in the peroration, where, instead of arguing that The Globe "barnacle" article contained many good lessons, he had actually combated the facts in that argument. He did not show where the article failed in connecting his Government with the iniquities which that article called upon them to correct. Mr. Foy declared there were not only barnacles on the ship of State, but that it was covered with them. Hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House applauded the Premier, and if there were any barnacles in the gallery they would be cheered by the Premier's assurance that the Government would stand by them. (Opposition applause.) The verdicts of the independent press, of many of the Liberal papers, and of the electors in the recent bye-elections, were all of one kind, except in Sault Ste. Marie, where the electors weakened in the face of the great promises made by the Attorney-General. An amusing part of the Premier's speech was the reference to the hon. member for Manitoulin, a very childish reference. Another reference was to the wave of indignation as seen in the bye-elections in the three Norths. Those elections took place before the statement made by the hon. member for Manitoulin on March 11 last. Muskoka and North Renfrew had taken place since. (Applause.)

Dates of Sessions.

Taking all the sessions since Confederation, Mr. Foy proceeded to combat Mr. Ross' declaration that the House had been called 15 times out of 34 during January. In 1902 the House was called in January because it was to expire in March. With that exception, the other three sessions of the ninth Parliament were called in February, except the short August session. In the eighth Legislature there were three sessions called in February and one in November. The January meetings were frequently very late in the month. In those cases, too, there was, he presumed, the usual four weeks' notice. Going back twenty years, he found no case exactly analogous to the present. There doubtless were then no election petitions to be headed off, or else the predecessors of the hon. gentlemen were responsible for additional wrongdoing. (Applause.)

Modern Shylocks.

Mr. Foy quoted from Shylock's speech in the "Merchant of Venice": "Ships are but boards, sailors but men. There be land rats and water rats, water thieves and land thieves. I mean pirates; and then there is the peril of waters, winds and rocks. The man is, notwithstanding, sufficient. Three thousand ducats; I think I may take his bond."

Amid applause from the Opposition Mr. Foy drew out the analogy, referring to the land thieves who got valuable timber concessions for \$250, and water thieves who obtained valuable fishing rights from the Government. The Premier had alluded to the recent timber sales. If they were entitled to credit for obtaining good prices this time, they were responsible for not having obtained equally good prices on former occasions. Mr. Foy then outlined the timber policy, which he claimed the Opposition alone advocated, of having ample advertisement of sales and public auctions.

The Election Trials.

The Premier had frankly admitted that the session was not called for the