

# GOVERNMENT HAS THREE MAJORITY.

## Legislature Adopts the Address In Reply to Speech.

## BUDGET ON TUESDAY.

## The Estimates Will be Brought Down This Afternoon.

## Mr. W. J. Hanna Has the Last Word —Deals With the Soo Election and Provincial Rights.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was concluded in the Legislature yesterday, the Government's resolution was adopted by a majority of three, the public accounts were immediately laid on the table, and the House will get down to business this afternoon. The Premier promised that the estimates would be presented to the House to-day, and he announced that he expected to deliver his budget speech on Tuesday next. The division yesterday was a strict party one. The House first voted on the amendment to the amendment, moved by Mr. Hoyle, disapproving of the summoning of the Legislature at such a time as to postpone the trial of several election petitions. This was defeated by 48 to 45, two members on each side being absent, Mr. J. R. Barber (Halton), and Mr. D. C. Cameron (Fort William), Liberals, and Mr. Henry Carscallen (Hamilton), and Mr. Adam Beck (London), Conservatives. Mr. E. J. B. Pense then moved in amendment to the amendment that the following words be added to the address: "And to express our pleasure that every electoral district of the Province is now represented in this Assembly." The amendment was received by the Opposition with laughter, in which the Government supporters joined. Mr. Whitney jocularly expressed surprise that no notice had been given him of "any such performance as this." The amendment not being withdrawn, Mr. Whitney asked for the yeas and nays to be again taken, which was done. When Mr. Cameron of West Huron, who had questioned the legality of Mr. Dunlop's election in North Renfrew, voted for the amendment he received Opposition applause. The vote, of course, was exactly the same. Mr. Foy's amendment disapproving of the delay in filling the North Renfrew vacancy, and of the directions given by the Government to the Clerk to withhold the writ, having been killed by Mr. Pense's amendment, the main motion was put and carried on the same division. Mr. Gamey has intimated that he intends moving an amendment to supply for the purpose of going again into his charges against the Government.

### The Last Word.

Mr. W. J. Hanna (West Lambton), who had the last word in the debate, commenced his address at 3.30 o'clock. He would have been much surprised if the Government, having regard to the special circumstances of the case, had not called the House exactly when and how they did. In calling this session just when they did they

did the only thing that would meet the necessities of the case. The conditions—unusual ones—were not made by the Government, but by the people and the courts, and it was the particular business of the Government to avoid both, and they did it. The course was a grand tribute to the Premier, who decided upon it, and a tribute to his courage for carrying it out in the face of the feeling of other members of the Government. They had had a peep behind the curtain from the Minister of Crown Lands. Mr. Hanna described for the House the picture that he saw behind the Council curtain when the Minister of Crown Lands objected to the early session, and reminded the Premier that he said last session that they would govern the House as clean men, above suspicion, or not at all. The Premier had doubtless reminded them that the situation had changed, and that he had made another statement since, that they would govern this country so long as they had a majority, and two was enough. The Minister of Education, too, raised his objection. The last to protest was the Attorney-General, who came fortified with precedents in regard to the constable session and others. He would quote from *The Globe* of April 13, 1901, showing that a session was out of place early in January. But the Premier's reply would be that those arguments were all right in an academy, but they had no place in the mind of a practical statesman, that self-preservation was the first law of nature, and that the end justified the means. Again, he was not surprised that the Premier did not give thirty days' notice when calling the House. There was not time to give thirty days' notice.

### Defining 'Public Issues.'

The public to-day wanted to know the facts of the Gamey case, and the Government had no reply but to call attention to what they had done for agriculture and other interests. These were not public issues. There was no difference between the Conservatives and the Liberals of Ontario as to the best ways for promoting all these interests. The decision to pay the men at the "Soo" was a proper move, but when the election was brought on a few days later it gave the transaction a corrupt garb. When the men were paid there were agents of the Government present to take them to the Liberal committee rooms for registration purposes.

Mr. C. N. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie)—Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that the statement which the hon. member for West Lambton has just made is entirely without foundation.

Mr. Hanna—How does the hon. member know? Was he present, following up the men? He (Mr. Hanna) was present when Mr. Drew was brought before the commissioners at the "Soo." He heard Mr. Drew swear that he had been called only to have the men swear that they were the men they represented themselves to be. He heard the men, when asked if they had sworn to certain affidavits before Mr. Drew, each declare "No, I did not."

Mr. Hanna enlarged upon the Attorney-General's reading of a telegram from Mr. Bicknell, and the letter from Senator Dandurand to the meeting at the Soo, stating that the mills would be immediately reopened. No man could say that any one of those mills had been started up in the manner conveyed in those letters that were read by the Attorney-General. That whole transaction was not one that did credit to the Government. The member for Brockville (Mr. Graham) had thrown a little light on what had been taking place in the Liberal ranks for some four years. Apparently Mr. Graham had been fighting the Government on the school book question. He had gone into figures to show how much the school books were costing pupils, but the people of this Province did not require arguments one way or the other to prove to them that they were to-day paying too much for them.

### Provincial Rights.

He had expected that some member

on the other side of the House would ask of the Government what had become of the platform of Provincial rights. It had been a favorite theme up to a few months ago. Perhaps they were wise in saying nothing about it; they no doubt had in mind the course pursued by the Premier in regard to the Toronto & Hamilton bill at Ottawa, which proposed to amalgamate certain lines, including those for which the Attorney-General had worked so faithfully inside and outside of the House. The municipalities had sent a deputation to the Ontario Government to protest against the passing of the bill at Ottawa, and from that time on the municipalities believed they had the support of the Government, until suddenly they discovered that the Premier was a bounty-jumper; that the Government had deserted the cause of Provincial rights. The *Globe* had tried to arouse the Government to the danger, but the Premier had given out an interview that was subsequently circulated in pamphlet form by the promoters of the bill, and which, according to Mayor Urquhart of Toronto, certainly went against the municipalities when the measure came before the committee at Ottawa. They had the Premier, in so far as this interview was concerned, taking a stand at Ottawa against the rights of the people of the Province, rights that for years this Parliament had fought for. He asked, then, what had become of the platform of Provincial rights?

Turning to the delay in holding the North Renfrew election, Mr. Hanna said it was fair to assume that when the member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) made the argument concerning the technicality that would deprive Mr. Dunlop of his seat he was not running counter to the wishes of the Government; that, indeed, the Government quite understood the argument before the member for West Huron had heard of it. The fact was many Liberal supporters were dissatisfied with the course of the Government in delaying the election, and in order to hoodwink them he would not be surprised to see the Government come before the House with a farce in the shape of a bill to remove a doubt with regard to the election of the member for North Renfrew, which never existed. Why was it that all these things were being done by the Government to retain power? It could not be for the salaries attached to the positions they occupied, nor for the glory and honor that attached to those positions, because if it was glory to be a mark for all that was being said in and out of the House, it was glory that certainly he for one would not invite. There was one reason for this desperate fight—they were afraid of the disclosures that would surely follow when those now on the Opposition side of the House took charge of the government of the Province.

The division was taken at 5.15.

Hon. J. R. Stratton brought in a number of returns asked for by members, and the Premier announced that the estimates would be brought down this afternoon, and he hoped to deliver his budget speech on Tuesday next.

### Notices of Motion.

The Attorney-General has given notice of a bill to amend the act respecting religious institutions. Mr. Carnegie has a bill to amend the jurors act.

Mr. Whitney has given notice of inquiry:—Was there any communication, written or verbal, between the returning officer for North Renfrew or any person on his behalf, and any member or officer of the Government, with reference to the return to be made by him to the writ of election after the death of the late John H. Munro? If so, what was the tenor of said communication?

### Speaker's Dinner.