

THE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY.

Interesting Discussion on Bill to Define His Powers.

NO LIQUOR LEGISLATION.

The Government's Intentions as to Railway Taxation.

Continuation of the Debate on the Bill to Aid Algoma Central Railway and the "Soo" Industries.

It was thought yesterday that a division might be reached in the Legislature on the bill to aid the Algoma Central Railway and the "Soo" industries, but an unexpected discussion on university matters delayed the start of the debate, and the great fire downtown prevented the finish. It will be resumed to-day.

No Temperance Legislation.

Mr. Whitney, when the orders of the day were called, asked if it was the intention of the Government to bring in this session legislation of any kind regarding the liquor traffic. They were entitled to the views of the Government, especially since the matter was alluded to in the speech from the throne.

The Premier replied that it was needless to say at this stage of the session that it was not at all probable that there would be any legislation.

Mr. Whitney asked whether the report of the committee on Mr. Pettypiece's railway taxation bill, which was adopted by the House, would be incorporated in the Government's railway taxation bill.

The Premier replied that it was needless there would not be any amendment with regard to the taxing of the cars of car-loading companies.

Mr. Whitney said what he wanted to know was as to the correctness of a morning paper report that the Government would take authority to appoint Mr. Pettypiece to the commission.

The Premier said that they had not been able to frame legislation to incorporate the substance of the report on Mr. Pettypiece's bill. A commission would be appointed to gather information as to the legislation in the States on the subject. He had been looking into the legislation of Michigan and Indiana, and the more it was studied the wider the question appeared. The Government had not discussed the appointment of a commission, but as far as he knew there would be no legislation to permit the appointment of Mr. Pettypiece or any other member of the House. The Government's supplementary revenue bill exhausted the legislation on the subject this session.

Mr. Whitney remarked that the course of the Opposition and the length of the session depended on that.

The Premier said that that was all he had in his mind at present, and thought that the session would end this week.

Mr. Whitney—The newspaper report, then, was not correct?

The Premier laughingly remarked that they all sometimes suffered from the allegations of newspapers.

Mr. Conmee, in order to prevent any misunderstanding, said that the amendments he proposed to the Jennison bill were not at the instance of one party to the disadvantage of any other, but to protect the interests of Port Arthur.

The University's Friends.

Mr. Whitney, on the third reading of

the bill to amend the university act, quoted figures to show the great advance in higher education in the State of New York and the large sums spent on it. If Ontario did not spend more, it would soon fall so far behind that it could never recover, and the Provincial University would be of no value. The Premier, in reply to a deputation asking for a physics building, had expressed sympathy, but asked would the House provide it just now. Mr. Whitney suggested to try the House. He also

pointed out that the Premier, in refusing the request, told the deputation that the normal revenue of the Province fell one million short of the normal expenditure. This endorsed what the Opposition always maintained, but he asked which was correct, that statement or the statement in the Premier's budget speech that the revenue was \$5,466,653, the expenditure \$4,888,982, and the surplus \$577,000. He might be wrong in saying that the Premier was inimical to the university, but he was not the only one who thought so. Some of the Premier's acts showed that he was not desperately in love with the institution or those in control of it. To prove that these acts were deliberate, Mr. Whitney said that The Globe had attacked Mr. Loudon as President. He agreed with The Globe that there were "deadwood" and "misfits" there, but the point was that the President had no power to remove them. The Globe's arraignment of the President, therefore, was unfair and based on an untrue statement. He declared that this attack was inspired.

The Premier—Inspired by whom?

Mr. Whitney—By some Government official.

The Premier—Not by a Cabinet Minister.

Mr. Whitney said that he could not give details, and went on to say that two or three years ago, when the university bill was up, he had been primed by a member of the faculty in full view of the Government, and he was thankful for it, for without that information he could not have discussed the question intelligently, but that same man was rapped over the fingers for giving information to the Opposition. This showed the jealousy and envy of the Government towards any member of the Opposition daring to touch the question. Mr. Whitney complained that though it was at his suggestion that the Minister of Education increased from two to four the number of townships set aside as endowment for a woman's residence, yet the Attorney-General at a banquet took all the credit for the Government, and never mentioned him (Mr. Whitney).

Hon. Mr. Gibson—That shows the suggestion was for political capital.

Mr. Whitney went on to say that the Premier could give subsidies to railways, and guarantee \$6,000,000 of rail way stock, and endorse a note for \$2,000,000, and yet could not give \$10,000 a year to aid the University of Toronto to take the position regarding higher education which its best interests require. He said he desired no party advantage, and that the Opposition would help in doing what ought to be done for the university.

The Trail of Party.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt said all the questions relating to the university were inviting, but the House would agree that he ought not long to detain the members on this occasion. He doubted Mr. Whitney's party disinterestedness in relation to the university. The trail of party was through his every reference to it. Ten years ago the Government supplemented the revenue by only \$500, this year the university revenue would be supplemented from the Provincial treasury by \$61,807. That meant, capitalized at 4 per cent., a million and a half. Neither New York nor Massachusetts, all things considered, had done more. The total of the grants by which the university revenues were increased since 1894 was \$100,000. Then there was the new building on College street, which was really a university building, and would cost a third of a million dollars. The Provincial grants to the university had increased as the needs increased, and had increased satisfactorily to all the friends of the university when politics were not involved. As proof that

the university was not going back he stated that the number of students was increasing. Trinity University, after years of consideration, had affiliated with the Provincial University. Would that have been done had the latter been a decadent institution?

If Mr. Whitney thought there was harmful political interference in university affairs, let him name one such institution in which there had been less. Hon. Mr. Harcourt denied most emphatically that there had been any interference. Not one member of the Government, he would venture the statement, knew the political opinions of one in four, probably not one in ten, of the members of the university faculty. In 25 years there had not been made an appointment without the direct recommendation of the President. He did not remember a dismissal, but if there had been any they were not because of political opinions. They were constantly hearing of dismissals from American universities because of economic or quasi-economic views. Such things, thank God, had not happened in Ontario.

General Education.

The Minister of Education alluded to the demand by all the wealthy universities of the United States for money. Regarding the interview between the Premier and a university deputation, when a physics building was asked, Mr. Whitney had made a partial and misleading statement. The Premier, while not promising a new physics building, had told the deputation that there would be room for the physics department in the new building on College street, and that ample room for classes in that department could be made in the existing class rooms. In the estimates already submitted to the House \$945,000 was asked for education, and the supplementary estimates would increase that sum to over a million dollars. Then it was to be borne in mind that four times as much of the Province of Ontario was undeveloped as had been developed, and there were crying needs to assist development in a hundred different directions. As he had shown, Provincial aid to the university had doubled and trebled year by year during the past decade, but the Government had not been so generous to other branches of education. The Government would have to ask larger appropriations for the public schools, which served directly twenty times as many as the university. If provision could not be made for the department of physics in the class rooms now available provision would have to be made.

Mr. Whitney, the Minister of Education said, had discussed The Globe articles more than the university. Over the head of the university he had been whipping the editor of The Globe. He and The Globe could fight it out. The Minister disclaimed any connection, however remote, with any of the articles in question. He did not express his views in that way. He stated his opinions publicly on the platforms of the Province. Hon. Mr. Harcourt said he had not made any attack on the President of the university. He had stated his views frankly and had nothing but the friendliest feeling for any member of the university staff. He explained the intention of the bill that had occasioned the discussion. The act as it stood provided in general terms that the President should report to the Government regarding the work of the staff. The amendment simply made more clear and definite the President's duties in that regard.

Premier Ross' Appeal.

Premier Ross reviewed briefly Mr. Whitney's attitude in relation to education, set forth the Government's position, and pleaded for a non-partisan consideration of the university question. He said that, considering the tone of Mr. Whitney's speech and its effect upon the country, no friend of the university would thank him for it. Its evident purpose was to array the Liberal party and the university against each other. If the leader of the Opposition had told what the Government had done and something of what it might do for the university, the speech might not have had that effect. It was a partisan speech, a