

# THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE

Extended to Toronto in Its Hour  
of Calamity.

## THE STANDARD OIL TRUST

Alleged to be Active Opponent  
of the "Soo" Industries.

Mr. Gamey Started a Lively Discussion  
Over Railway Contracts—Hon.  
Frank Latchford Back Again.

What is called the "Soo" bill was discussed at length in the Legislature yesterday again, and Mr. Downey will have the floor to-day, when a division will be reached. The feature of the debate was the evidence brought forward by Mr. Cameron (Huron) to show the intimate relations of the Imperial Oil Company, of which Mr. Hanna is solicitor, with the Standard Oil Trust, and that the latter controls the United States Steel Trust, which frustrated the efforts of the "Soo" companies to raise more capital at a critical period last fall.

Hon. Frank Latchford returned from the south last night and was given a hearty reception by members on both sides of the House. He looks well, and says that his general health is excellent. His voice is still a little husky, but is rapidly improving.

### Sympathy With Toronto.

The Premier, when the orders of the day were called rose to express his sympathy, as representative of the Province, with the calamity which had overtaken Toronto. They all had shared its hospitality and enjoyed its beauty, and were delighted to contribute to its prosperity. While they rejoiced in its prosperity, they sympathized with the city in its hour of adversity and in the affliction which had visited its business men. Many of them were personal friends of himself and of other members of the House. They did business with them, and knew their capabilities as business men. After struggling with adverse circumstances, many of them had become captains of industry, others high in social life, others useful in public and municipal affairs. He hoped that this baptism of fire would result in heroism, fortitude, enterprise to make up for their losses, and that their losses by fire would in the near future be compensated through the enterprise which characterizes the men not only of Toronto but of the whole of Canada.

Mr. Whitney, on behalf of the Opposition, concurred in the appropriate language of the Premier, and had no doubt the end would be that Toronto would go on improving. The effect of the disaster was perhaps hardly realized either by the House or the sufferers. He hoped that Toronto would go on without suffering any material setback.

Mr. Foy (South Toronto), on behalf of the district which had suffered, extended thanks for the kind words of sympathy of the Premier and of the leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Crawford (West Toronto) expressed sympathy with the insurance companies and the hope that they were not only willing but ready to meet all re-

quirements.

Dr. Pyne (East Toronto) and Dr. Nesbitt (North Toronto) also expressed their sympathy, and the latter suggested that the Government might follow the example of many private individuals when a fire occurs on their premises, and give a gratuity to the firemen who had put out the fire in the Parliament building recently.

The Premier said that the Government certainly appreciated the services of the city firemen, particularly Chief Thompson, on that occasion. In the supplementary estimates will be found a sum for the city firemen. (Applause.) He added an expression of regret at the accident which befell the Chief at the fire Tuesday night.

### Six Months' Hoist.

Mr. Smyth (Algoma), in resuming the debate on the bill to assist the Algoma Central and allied industries, suggested that the Government might help the thousands who were thrown out of employment by the fire. He complained that the Premier had refused to adjourn the debate on account of the fire.

The Premier pointed out that as soon as he learned that the Queen's Hotel, where many of them lived, was on fire he at once accepted the suggestion of Mr. Whitney to adjourn. He reminded the House that a few nights previously they had to adjourn for want of a quorum. It was time the debate was concluded.

Mr. Smyth, continuing, repeated that his constituents in Algoma from one end to the other were opposed to the bill, and alleged that some of the Liberal members had told him it was a rascally affair. He therefore moved, seconded by Mr. Gamey, that the bill be not read a second time now, but six months hence.

Mr. Beatty (Leeds) said that not 20 per cent. of the land through which the road would pass was arable, and that it would be nothing less than a crime to settle people on it.

Mr. Sutherland (South Oxford) objected that it would set a bad precedent, and that before the session ended the credit of the Province would be pledged to \$10,000,000, which was a very large amount.

### Mr. Whitney an Artful Dodger.

Mr. Cameron (Huron) said that he was not at first very enthusiastic over this proposal, but if it was unique, so were the circumstances, for never did a foreign corporation before invest \$30,000,000 in such an enterprise in this country. He thought that the people of the Province would show little faith in their own future if they were not prepared to guarantee a \$2,000,000 loan in view of such a great foreign investment in actual cash. Mr. Whitney had said that he never met anyone except those directly interested who were not opposed to the bill. He thought the leader of the Opposition exhibited many of the qualities of the Artful Dodger, in missing Mr. Thomas Long, one of his leading supporters, and Mr. Maclean of The World, one of

his chief newspaper followers. He showed that the claim of Messrs. Conmee and Bowman was already absolutely secured and was not in any way affected by the guarantee. He pointed out that it was not a question of bonusing an industrial enterprise. The proposal was to assist colonization railway, and in this Government was simply following usual policy. He declared that if steel industry could be securely established at the "Soo" as an incident the Government would be justified in giving a guarantee five times greater than the present to the Algoma Central. He showed by the affidavit of A. D. Gall, oil merchant, of Montreal, that the Imperial Oil Company, of which Mr. Hanna, the member for West Lambton, is the solicitor, is controlled by the Standard Oil Trust. (Hear, hear.) He further showed by a return of the Imperial Oil Company to the Government, dated December 31, 1903, that the correspondence was written by directors of the Standard Oil Company from New York, and one letter said that "the fee of \$10 will be sent from the Sarnia office." (Applause.) That was the real reason of the hostility of Mr. Hanna to the bill, for the United States Steel Trust, which is controlled by the Standard Oil magnates, was jealous of a rival at the "Soo." He believed that those who backed up the United States Steel Trust in preventing the manufacture of steel rails at the "Soo" would meet with the fate at the polls which they deserved. (Applause.) He further read from The Literary Digest to show that the Standard Oil magnates dominated the banks and other financial institutions of the United States, and it was for that reason that "Soo" companies met with a Waterloo when trying to raise the money last fall necessary to complete their industries. It was for the Legislature to say whether they would continue to play the game of the United States Steel Trust or assist in establishing an independent industry in Canada. (Applause.)

### Mr. Matheson Pesimistic.

Mr. Matheson said that to complete the Algoma Central would require least 1,135,000, and that if the Government advanced this sum and took the land grant as security there might be some argument for it. But the Government, he believed, was not justified in spending \$1,000,000 to build a railway through a country unfit for agriculture. Moreover, he claimed that there was no intention to complete the railway, and that the whole \$2,000,000 would be absorbed by the trading companies. If they failed, as fail they must, a further demand for assistance, in addition to the \$2,000,000, would be made. Better to lose the \$265,000 now due by them and have done with it!

Mr. Gamey, having stated that he would oppose the bill, criticized at length the statements of earnings and prospects made by the "Soo" companies. He read from a newspaper that Messrs. Conmee and Bowman got a ten per cent. commission on the contract price of the Algoma Central.

### Question of Veracity.

Mr. Conmee emphatically denied that there was any such agreement.

Mr. St. John said that he had in his possession a contract which showed that Messrs. Conmee and Bowman were to get three per cent. as the work progressed and seven per cent. when it was finished, and that this was to apply to all future contracts.

Mr. Conmee again said that there was no such contract.

The Speaker, as Messrs. St. John and Hanna endeavored to continue the discussion, said that, according to the rules, the statement of a member of the House must be accepted, but that if any other member were dissatisfied he might make a charge.

Mr. Hanna said that if it was necessary to make a charge he would do so, and in 48 hours the evidence could be brought before the House to prove it.

Mr. Conmee said he was quite prepared to deny the charge, and with that the incident ended.

Mr. Downey moved the adjournment of the debate, and the House adjourned at 10.45.