

THE DIRECTORATE OF "SOO" WORKS.

Premier Whitney Questioned About a Despatch.

MANUFACTURED STORIES.

The Estimates to be Brought Down on Friday.

Knox Presbyterian Church Hands Over
Some Valuable Original Records to
the Registrar-General's Department
—The County Poor-houses.

Premier Whitney for the past year and a half has placed no reliance whatever upon statements published in the newspapers regarding the industries at Sault Ste. Marie, and has been assured that many of them, relative to contracts, etc., have been deliberately manufactured and sent out to the newspapers. He also denies that the resignation of any director of the reorganized Soo companies has been asked by the Government. These statements were made in the House yesterday afternoon in answer to a despatch published in a Detroit paper, and which was read by Mr. Graham (Brockville). Hon. Colonel Matheson said he hoped to bring down the estimates on Friday and to deliver the budget speech on Tuesday.

The following bills were read a first time:—

Mr. Torrance—Enabling the Royal College of Dental Surgeons to admit Otto Charles Kalblusch as a final year student.

Dr. Jessop—Respecting the village of Grimsby.

Mr. Macdiarmid—Confirming by-law 1,493 of the city of St. Thomas.

Mr. Hodgins—Respecting the London Street Railway. This is to confirm agreements on minor matters between the company and the city.

Mr. Craig—To incorporate the Western Central Railway Company.

Mr. Carscallen (Hamilton)—To authorize the Law Society of Upper Canada to admit William Edgar Foster as a practising barrister.

Mr. Carscallen (Hamilton)—To incorporate the United Nickel Company of Canada.

Mr. Auld—To confirm certain alterations in the Point Pelee Marsh Draining Commission and to consolidate its indebtedness.

Mr. Pense—respecting the city of Kingston.

Mr. Sutherland — Respecting the Church of England Cemetery in the town of Ingersoll.

Mr. Tudhope—Respecting the town of Orillia.

Mr. Preston (Durham)—To authorize the Law Society to admit James B. McKenzie as a practising barrister.

Mr. Sutherland—To amend the act regulating the speed and operation of motor vehicles on highways.

Mr. Lucas—To amend the consolidated municipal act, 1903, by enabling County Councils to incorporate villages with populations of less than 800.

Mr. MacKay—To consolidate the floating debt of the town of Meaford.

The Soo Directorate.

Mr. Graham, before the orders of

the day were proceeded with, said he desired to call the Premier's attention to an item which recently appeared in a Detroit paper, and he read as follows:—

"Clergue is again on top.
"Things coming his way in all matters.

"Warren and his crowd have been turned out by Ontario.

"Toronto, Ont., April 1.—A great thorn in the side of F. H. Clergue in the reorganization of the Canadian Soo Company after the collapse of the Consolidated Lake Superior was Manager Warren of the Traders' Bank of Toronto and the others who formed the Canadian Improvement Company, and who under the Ontario Government took control to secure the loan made to pay the pressing debts of the concern. Mr. Warren was opposed to Mr. Clergue, and it is stated that notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Clergue's holdings in the new company were heavier than in the collapsed concern, the situation was made unpleasant for the founder of the greatest industry Canada has ever seen. The twist of the political wheel of fortune which turned the Liberals out and placed in power the Conservatives placed Mr. Clergue in a position where he could cheerfully smile, as it is positively stated that the resignations of Warren and his associates have been asked for, and men who are more congenial to Mr. Clergue will be placed in control of the Canadian Improvement Company, or in other words of the Government interests."

The Premier's Reply.

Premier Whitney, in reply, said that for the past year and a half he had not believed anything he had seen in the newspapers in regard to the situation at Sault Ste. Marie. He was distinctly surprised to hear now, for the first time, that Mr. Clergue sympathized with the present Government. If his surprise was not sufficiently well expressed he would appeal to his hon. friend from Algoma (Mr. W. R. Smyth) to help him in that regard. "It is news to me," he continued, "to learn that any directors have been asked to resign. It will not be news to me, however, if some are asked to resign. Perhaps I have gone too far in saying that, because the Government has no power to ask for the resignation of directors. In that fearful and wonderful agreement that was passed by the House last year it was provided that the Government should approve of three directors. The Government did approve of three by sending their names to the other directors. I am not complaining of that; I am not saying that it is improper; I am merely relating the facts. It may be in the future, at the request of the companies, however, not of our own volition, that we may approve or disapprove of some directors. If we do it will not be with reference to Mr. Clergue's likes or dislikes, or of any individuals outside of ourselves. I think Mr. Warren, with whom I was talking to-day, would be as much sur-

prised as I am to hear that he has been dismissed. We propose from time to time to watch the interests of the people of this Province at the Soo. I may add that I am possessed of information which perhaps indicate more than one condition up there that the House will take considerable interest in, but I do not think the time has arrived to discuss them. I repeat that I pay no attention whatever to newspaper paragraphs from the Soo regarding contracts, etc., many of which those who have a right to know have assured me are without foundation, and, in fact, are deliberately manufactured and sent to the newspapers. There are other portions of the despatch my hon. friend has read that are calculated to arouse amusement rather than any other condition of mind."

Estimates and Budget.

Hon. Mr. Matheson said the estimates would not be ready until Friday. He had hoped to lay them before the House on Thursday, but found himself unable to do so. The budget speech he hoped to deliver on Tuesday.

These Records Are Appreciated.

Through the kindness of the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto, and on the recommendation of a committee, consisting of his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Rev. A. B. Winchester and Mr. John Duncan, Clerk of the Session, the Registrar-General's Department has received two books containing the records of the marriages solemnized by the Rev. Jas. Harris. He was pastor of the church from September 20, 1823, to July 20, 1838. These original records will be placed on file by the department, and the church will be furnished with copies, as the books contain some minutes of the Session. The department greatly appreciates the gift and hopes to obtain further original records from other churches.

A Mining Dispute.

The mining claim, J. B. No. 6, in the Haileybury district, south of Mr. W. G. Tretheway's large cobalt-silver mine, is in dispute between Tretheway and the Nipissing Mining Co. Mr. J. H. Watson on behalf of Tretheway, and Mr. Alex. Faskin for the Nipissing Mining Co., appeared before Hon. J. J. Foy in the Crown Lands Department yesterday morning, each claiming the discovery of J. B. No. 6 for his client. An adjournment was asked and granted until April 14th to allow for the collection of evidence and information, when the matter will be again argued.

County Poor-houses.

At the request of several County Councils and on the recommendation of the Provincial Secretary, the act assisting to the extent of \$4,000 in the cost of building county poor-houses erected prior to 1906 will be amended by extending the time limit. There are only seven or eight counties that have not erected poor-houses, and several deputations representing them have urged the extension of time.