

GOVERNMENT AND RAILWAY BONUSES.

Premier Whitney Outlines the Policy to be Followed.

THE UNIVERSITY MEASURE.

Interesting Discussion as to the Financing.

Bill as Introduced Carried—The Bill Regulating the Speed of Automobiles Passed in the Legislature—Natural Gas Supply—The House Adjourns Until Tuesday Next.

Premier Whitney took occasion to tell the Legislature yesterday that the Government policy with regard to railway bonusing was to call a halt. He thought the people would be justified if they came in a body and dispersed the House if it were persisted in. The financing of the grant to the new Provincial Hospital led to a somewhat heated debate in the afternoon. The regulation of speed of automobiles was fully discussed in the evening, and the bill dealing with the matter received its third reading. A large number of bills were dealt with on second reading and in committee, but the House had to adjourn until Tuesday next to finish the business of the session.

No Railway Bonuses This Session.

The Premier, before the orders of the day were proceeded with, said it was not the intention of the Government this session to grant anything to railways. The policy of the Government, which they had assumed for some time past as hon. gentlemen would remember, was that the day for stopping the granting of large sums of money and grants of lands to railways had arrived. The exception the Government, when in Opposition had carefully expressed still held good: they could not say that under no circumstances should such grants be made. The mere mention of the facts in some cases might be sufficient warrant for aid. He had in mind at the moment one or two instances in new Ontario which were, he thought, the most deserving that had ever come to his notice. He had in mind also the situation in reference to one railway of 200 miles from the west end of Lake Superior to the Grand Trunk Pacific, for which alternative sections of a strip of land thirty-six miles in width and running the whole length of the 200 miles had been reserved by an act of the Legislature, in addition to a large money grant. If a stop was not put to that state of affairs the people would be coming down in a body and dispersing the Legislature, and they would be justified in doing it.

Why Was He Displaced?

Mr. Hislop, apologizing for not giving notice, asked the reason of the displacement of Bailiff Finlay Scott. The Premier stated that he was not quite sure, but assumed that the gentleman had interfered in the elections. He might be all wrong, but would inquire, and let Mr. Hislop know.

Algoma Central Land Grants.

Hon. Mr. Foy explained that his measure respecting the land grant to the Algoma Central Railway empower-

ed the Government to allow the railway to take up land grants within less than twenty miles of Sault Ste. Marie and ten miles of Michipicoten. They are prevented from doing so under the present act.

The County Councils Act.

The Premier announced that Hon. Mr. Monteith's bill to abolish the County Councils act and all laws amending it would be withdrawn with a view to reintroducing a similar bill next session, when all parties shall have had full notice of their intention.

Hon. Mr. Ross thought a reasonable measure of option was good and hurt nobody. The House would not pass the old County Council act.

Hon. Mr. Whitney—It will not be asked.

Financing University Buildings.

On the House going into committee on the Premier's university bill, Hon. Mr. Ross asked if there was any necessity for issuing the \$30,000 annuities for 30 years. Could the requirements of the trustees not be met by votes from time to time out of the ordinary revenue of the country? There would be no call for the money this year, and it was proposed to immediately plunge into a debt that would aggregate \$900,000. The late Government had met expenditures for the \$300,000 School of Science building and for other heavy expenditures for the university and public buildings out of the ordinary revenue.

What the Government Will Do.

The Premier declared that the Government were not prepared to adopt the late Administration's policy of meeting the university trustees' requirements by constant dribbles, just sufficient to meet the deficits. His hon. friend seemed bound to prevent any aid to the university except over his body. The Government now proposes to pay \$30,000 a year, dating from the 1st of July next. The hon. gentleman's colleague (Hon. Mr. Harcourt) had approved the Government's measure.

Hon. Mr. Ross resented the inference that he was not in favor of generous aid to the university, and alluded to all that the late Government had done in this respect. The Opposition was not objecting to the aid, but suggesting methods as to how it should be given.

Consider Small Hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Ross would not permit the Government to place him in the position of being hostile to the university. There was nothing in the bill which had not been anticipated by the previous Government. He would be better pleased to see smaller sums distributed among the small hospitals throughout the Province. He had thought he was doing well when he gave \$100,000, and the city was to give as much. Now they were giving \$300,000, and the city should give as much. He regretted that the university endowment should be impaired, and thought it should have been kept intact.

The Premier did not think anyone could listen to Mr. Ross and go away unconvinced of his active hostility to the university. He now understood why Mr. Harcourt was not present, for after his acceptance of the Government plan he could not have sat and watched Mr. Ross stick his knife in the university without protest. Mr. Ross said they were not in the habit of helping medicine. Mr. Ross was not in the habit of helping medicine. He was in the habit of refusing to help medicine. His attacks would be exposed as fast as they were brought on. The majority of the people who were opposed to his policy had now repudiated him as a political leader.

The University's Greatest Enemy.

Mr. Graham contended that nothing his hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Ross) had said could be construed as unfriendly to the university. The body most hostile to the University of Toronto was itself, and until the confidence of the public was restored in the management and teaching staff of the institution everything else would be useless. He thought

something should be done for the smaller hospitals throughout the country, and that there should be some definite pledge from the city as to the amount it would give to the hospital plan.

Hon. Mr. Foy pointed out that the hospital to be aided was a Provincial institution.

Hon. Mr. Beck said that the late Administration had turned a deaf ear to requests from the London and other hospitals for increased grants, but he thought the present Government would deal properly with the question.

Mr. McDougall thought the Opposition's attitude fair and well taken. Others besides a hospital almost solely for the benefit of Toronto should be considered.

Mr. Pratt held that the Government could well afford to ignore "the direful, doleful, dismal" tone characterizing the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Ross asked that some of the clauses of the bill be held over for discussion, as his hon. friend the member for Monck (Mr. Harcourt) was not here.

The Premier—And I'll guarantee that he won't.

Hon. Mr. Ross asked his hon. friend to withdraw that remark. His hon. friend's tone was often insolent; an extraordinary tone for the leader of a Government. No one regretted that his hon. friend occupied the position he did to-day, but they would not accept his sneers or insolence. It was to be hoped the insolence of office had not already overtaken the hon. gentleman. His interpellations showed the insolence of his tone.

The Premier replied that Mr. Ross had been treated with extraordinary deference. The members had known him for years, and the treatment they received from him. They had done everything that had been suggested to their sense of propriety. His hon. friend would have to be his own judge as to insolence and personal allusion, and in his own atmosphere, into which Mr. Whitney declined to be dragged. He had no reparation to offer for he had committed no offence.

The House continued in Committee of the Whole until the afternoon adjournment.

Twine From Ontario Flax.

On resuming at 8 o'clock Mr. Eilber inquired if the Government were aware that a superior article of binder twine was manufactured out of flax, and if it was their intention to experiment in or manufacture twine from home-grown flax at the Central Prison.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said that the Government had taken no action, but now that their attention was called to it, the matter would not pass unnoticed.

Natural Gas Supply.

Dr. Jessop moved that immediate steps be taken by the Government to prohibit the exportation of natural gas from the Province to the United States. The question had been discussed on both sides of the House and was vitally important. The policy of the Conservative party had been to take care of the resources of the country. The gas delivered annually in Buffalo was sufficient to last the Niagara peninsula for six or seven years. Of a total of 1,225,000,000 cubic feet produced 206,000,000 only were used in Canada, and over a billion cubic feet exported to Buffalo. How long, he would like to know, would the gas last at that rate? While people could not get a pound of coal in Ontario they were burning the gas in Buffalo at 30 cents a thousand feet. He did not wish to cut off the entire supply, but desired to limit it.

The Premier thanked Dr. Jessop for bringing up the matter, which was one of the most difficult the Province had to deal with. They could hardly take a step into the open from the position given them by the British North America Act, but must leave the solution of the question to the Dominion Legislature. He was diffident about dealing with the question, as the product was not indigenous to his own district, but it was important to the western part of the Province, as the end of the supply was practically in sight. He confessed he was not able to offer a solu-