

UNIVERSITY BILL WAS DISCUSSED.

An Income of \$250,000 a Year
is Aimed at.

NURSES BILL WITHDRAWN.

As Amended, the Promoters Did
Not Like it at All.

The Railway Taxation Bill Passed
Through Committee Stages — Hon.
Mr. Matheson Explains the Negotia-
tions in Regard to the Soo Loan—
Speech of Hon. Mr. Harcourt.

Two addresses were delivered in the Legislature yesterday evening on the Government's university bill, Premier Whitney being the first speaker and Mr. Harcourt following. Hon. Mr. Ross was indisposed, and was not present at either the afternoon or the evening session of the House. In the course of his remarks the Premier said that what was aimed at for the present was a yearly income of \$250,000 for the university. The Government had seen their way clear to adopt most of the recommendations of the University Commission, with the exception of the proposed endowment of 1,000,000 acres of land. Mr. Harcourt, who had not expected to speak on the question last night, but did so on it becoming certain that Hon. Mr. Ross could not be present, made an excellent speech, agreeing in the main with the commission's recommendations, his criticisms being couched in kindly terms and with every evidence of a desire to be of assistance in framing a proper measure. The bill will be taken up again in committee to-day. During the evening Mr. Goldwin Smith, to whom both speakers paid tribute, and the other members of the University Commission, with other leading educationists, occupied seats on the floor of the House.

At the afternoon session the graduate nurses bill was withdrawn by Mr. Crawford, its mover, and the railway taxation bill was put through committee.

The Soo Guarantee.

Before the orders of the day were taken up, Hon. Mr. Matheson made a statement respecting his journey to New York in regard to the loan commonly known as the Sault guarantee loan for \$2,000,000 falling due on the 1st of May. The Canadian Improvement Company, whose certificates were guaranteed by the Province, found that they were unable to have the Province relieved of the whole guarantee. After negotiations it was agreed that the Province should release one-half of the collateral securities, being a portion of the bonds, income bonds and stock of the Lake Superior Corporation, and the Canadian Improvement Company procured a loan for \$1,050,000 without the guarantee of the Province. It being found that the further sum of \$1,000,000 required could not be obtained without the guarantee of the Province, the Government, under the

authority of the act passed during the present session, guaranteed certificates for \$1,000,000, payable with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum in six months from the 1st of May, in renewal of one-half of the former certificates, and on these the Canadian Improvement Company obtained a loan of \$1,000,000. The whole of this \$2,000,000 principal money and \$50,000 interest was paid into the Morton Trust Company on the 1st of May instant.

The Government's present liability, he continued, is on renewal certificates of the Canadian Improvement Company for \$1,000,000, payable with interest at 5 per cent. per annum on the 1st of November next at the office of the Morton Trust Company, and for this guarantee the Morton Trust Company hold as security for the Province "the pledged securities," being all the stock and bonds of the Algoma Central and Manitoulin Railways and the mortgage on the vessels of the company, and also one-half of the "collateral securities" formerly held, being \$1,209,000 bonds of the Lake Superior Corporation out of \$10,000,000, \$153,000 income bonds out of a total of \$3,000,000, and \$2,682,000 of the stock of the said corporations out of a total of \$40,000,000.

The Government had arranged that in case of necessity they should be able to pay in the whole \$2,000,000 on the 1st of May, so that there should be no dishonor of the Provincial guarantee.

The Railway Act.

In the consideration in committee of the act to amend the supplementary revenue act Mr. Preston (Brant) asked if the Provincial Treasurer thought of taxing the great car-owning companies, like the Swift and Armour corporations.

Hon. Mr. Matheson said it was not want of will, but the difficulty of reaching them, that led to the omission.

Mr. Preston suggested that the railway companies might furnish returns.

Mr. Bowyer contributed some figures to the debate, illustrating the incidence of railway taxation in the States as contrasted with Ontario. The only fair method, he thought, to levy taxation was on values.

Hon. Mr. Matheson said that the tax must be a direct tax, not one that might be passed on. It was a very difficult matter to tax equably all over the Province.

Mr. Hoyle thought it a mistake to depart from the principle of giving the proceeds of mileage taxation to the municipalities. He favored the policy of the late Government of taxing rolling stock for the benefit of the Province.

Mr. Graham supported the view taken by the Provincial Treasurer. As Mr. Preston (Brant) had shown, he thought the farmers of Ontario were taxed less than any country for the advantages they enjoyed. There were two sides to consider—the demagogic side and the hard business side—and the Treasurer had taken the hard business view.

After further discussion the bill was reported as amended.

Mr. Preston (Brant) reiterated the protest of the Opposition against Mr. Duff's bill, which enables the Government to appoint returning officers other than the Registrars and Sheriffs, who now act. The measure was calculated to encourage partisanship.

The bill was, however, reported, Mr. Megarry's bill being incorporated with it respecting the oath to be taken by aliens at naturalization.

Mr. Crawford withdrew the bill respecting the Ontario Registered Nurses' Association. In its present form, shorn of the powers that were asked the nurses do not think it would be of any benefit to them.

Hon. Mr. Reaume introduced a bill respecting aid hereinbefore granted to the G. T. P. Railway. The bill ratifies the agreement relinquishing part of the land grant.

On the resumption of business at 8 o'clock Mr. Crawford's bill respecting Trinity Church, Toronto, was read a third time.

The University Bill.

The Premier, in moving consideration

in committee of the university act, in his opening remarks briefly outlined the history of the University of Toronto up to the situation as it exists to-day. He pointed out that last session the Government asked and the House voted an appropriation of \$745,000. At that time the Premier had promised that this session a further step would be taken particularly in regard to putting the finances of the institution on a sound and stable footing, providing from the succession duties a proper sum for annual maintenance, and taking such steps as were deemed necessary to end other troubles under which for varied reasons the university had labored for years. In this connection the Premier spoke in warmest terms of the work and the report of the University Commission, specifically naming each member.

The Premier then read at some length from the recommendations of the commission, which have been fully published in the press, the proposals respecting the government and management of the institution.

Mr. Whitney read from several Globe editorials approving of the commission's findings as to the powers of the President and in regard to Government control of the institution.

Among other points he enlarged upon the question of discipline, which is to be in charge of the caput, and the establishment of a students' committee, and the relation of Trinity College to the university. The portion of the report on which the future prosperity of the university must rest was the recommendation as to the financial support to be rendered by the Legislature. In the estimates no provision was made for the University or the School of Practical Science, and it was considered that some means should be found of fixing the income so that it would grow with the growing needs of the university. A revenue from the succession duties had been suggested, but without comment, except to note that the commission reported that the sum to be allotted should not be less than \$275,000, he passed on to the comparison of revenues enjoyed by sundry United States universities.

Question of Endowment.

Premier Whitney remarked with respect to the proposed land endowment that the Government had been receiving back land, and the suggestion might be apropos at the present juncture, but he did not wish to express himself with regard to it at that moment. He had no apology to make for making the main portion of his speech dependent on the report of the commission. He had to state that the Government endorsed practically all the conclusions cited, and they had seen their way to adopt the recommendations made except as to the endowment of land. For a money endowment the Government proposed a sum to be equal to a sum based on a percentage of the succession duties fixed on the average of three years' revenue. The percentage had not been fixed, and he wished the consideration of the House in arriving at the percentage.

It was with very lively satisfaction that he had to announce that the authorities of all the institutions concerned, the University, University College, Victoria College, Knox College, Wycliffe College, St. Michael's College and Trinity College, were in full accord with the provisions of the bill.

He had the satisfaction of feeling that they had not only fulfilled their pledges, but had done their duty as they saw it. He looked for no higher honor in the future than had been achieved by putting on a firm basis the future of the university.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's View.

Mr. Harcourt heartily endorsed the remarks of the Premier with regard to the personnel of the commission. It was as odd as it was pleasing to note that fifty-six years ago the Government of Britain appointed a commission, the object of which was reform of Oxford University, and one of its Secretaries was the Dr. Goldwin Smith to whom reference had been made by the Premier. "What great service one has rendered to his country and the world at large."