

TWITTED PREMIER ON "BALDERDASH."

Sharp Repartee in Legislature Over Famous Word.

HON. MR. WHITNEY FORGOT.

Member for South Brant Cre- ates an Incident.

Debate is continued by Three Speak-
ers—Mr. C. N. Smith Says Gov-
ernment Should Build Coloniza-
tion Roads—Government Desires
to Assist Flotation of Municipal
Debentures.

There was a moment of sharp repartee in the Legislature yesterday afternoon between the member for South Brant, Mr. T. H. Preston, and Premier Whitney. It all centred around the Premier's use of the now famous word "balderdash." About a year ago the leader of the Government applied this word to a portion of a resolution aiming to give the mineral wealth to the settler. The other day a Government measure was introduced practically along the lines of the resolution of a year ago. Mr. Preston pointed out that as far back as 1904 the Liberals had favored such a policy, and even a Conservative convention had passed a resolution also favoring it. Then the member for South Brant gently twitted the leader of the Government about being so unfamiliar with it as to use the word "balderdash" when practically the same resolution was brought up in the House, but by a Liberal. This roused the ire of the Premier, and he hastily replied to the effect that he was familiar with details of the resolution, and thereby got deeper into the mire.

The debate on the address was continued first by Mr. C. N. Smith, Sault Ste. Marie, who finished his speech of Tuesday by making a special plea in the interests of Ontario's pulpwood. Then followed Mr. R. R. Gamey, Manitoulin, who spoke for about an hour and a half. Mr. Preston only spoke a few minutes, when he moved the adjournment, and he will conclude his address to-day.

Divided Responsibility.

Mr. C. N. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie), resuming his speech in the debate on the address, first stated that he had an apology to offer to the Minister of Agriculture with respect to the purchase of a blind mare for \$1,500 for the Agricultural College. He stated he had learned that the Minister was not alone responsible for the purchase, but that he was assisted in it by another member of the Administration. (Laughter.)

Continuing, the member for Sault Ste. Marie, favored the building of every mile of colonization roads in New Ontario with the people's money, and he stated emphatically that there should be two more lines of railway northward from the great lakes. Besides opening up agricultural land these railways would give to the Province 150,000 square miles of forest and mining lands which were at present inaccessible. The country could only be opened up by means of railways. The timber alone in this vast territory, he estimated, would be worth \$120,000,000 to the Province. At this juncture Mr. Smith put forward a

timely suggestion to the effect that the unemployed now crowding the cities, if the men were fit, might be put to work on these Government improvements in the north.

About the Pulpwood.

At present this country, he said, was filling United States pulp and paper mills with good spruce logs, and the time had arrived when the principle of

self-interest and self-preservation should enter into the minds of the Administration. He gave figures to show how a large portion of the pulp used in the eastern States came from Canadian forests. In Newfoundland, he added, some measure of self-preservation had been taken with regard to pulpwood, and now it was announced that the great Harmsworth interests would commence the manufacture of pulp on that island. Could not some similar measures be adopted here? he asked. The speaker then suggested that an arrangement might be entered into with the other Provinces regarding the pulpwoods. Whatever conclusion were arrived at between the Provinces should apply the same to them all, and a Government commission might take up the work. In fact Mr. Smith went so far as to suggest that the Premier himself might take the lead and follow the steps of the Premier of Newfoundland. In conclusion Mr. Smith took exception to the remark of a previous Conservative speaker to the effect that Ontario was an agricultural Province instead of a manufacturing one. In the north there were already great manufacturing concerns, such as the mills at Sault Ste. Marie, and the future would almost certainly bring greater industrial expansion.

Hon. Mr. Monteith, in explaining the horse episode, said that it was not blind when purchased, and that was over two years ago.

Mr. Clarke (Northumberland)—Is it blind now?

Hon. Mr. Monteith—Well, I have not the authority to say.

Mr. Gamey Replies.

Mr. R. R. Gamey (Manitoulin) also arose with an explanation. He stated that the constable, Tansey, had been drinking before the gratuity had been voted and his wife had asked that the money be given to the man Muncaster, who was the President of the Blind River Conservative Association. Continuing, the member for Manitoulin maintained that it was the Liberal party which first took the timber and minerals from the settler. Then Mr. Gamey took occasion to go back many years and criticized the former Liberal Administration. Regarding the pulp question, Mr. Gamey stated that when concessions were made by the Conservatives the wood had to be manufactured into paper within the Province. Before the Ross Government had gone out of power one of the men who received pulpwood concessions for a mere song was Mr. E. F. B. Johnston, K.C. Mr. Gamey came out with a number of allegations in which he used the word graft, and among these he mentioned that one of the preceding railway commissioners, Mr. O'Brien, had obtained the deed for his mine just a day or so after the last general election. By the present Government O'Brien had been forced to pay a royalty, and within a year the Province had obtained \$200,000 from the O'Brien mine. Touching upon questions of the future, he said reforestation would be pursued as far as was reasonable.

The Premier Roused.

Mr. T. H. Preston (South Brant) said if Mr. Gamey's explanation of the Tansey incident were true it relieved the Government of responsibility, but there should be some straightening out of accounts between the Blind River Conservative Association and its President. With regard to the allegation that the Liberal Government was responsible for the taking away of timber from the settlers, he had to point out that there had been a great change in conditions. In the old days there was not a great demand for timber, and, as a matter of fact, it was regarded as an incubus, for

the land had to be cleared before it was settled. Then came the discoveries of mineral wealth and conditions were changed. In 1904 a Reform convention passed a resolution on exactly the same lines as the present proposals of the Government, and the following day a similar resolution was passed by the Conservative convention. "But," said Mr. Preston, "when last year the Liberal member from the Soo brought forward that resolution the Premier was so unfamiliar with it that he described it as 'balderdash.'"

Premier Whitney—I have complete confidence in my hon. friend's good faith, but so far from being unfamiliar with the matter, I, as a member of the Opposition, brought before the House this very question before any convention.

Mr. T. H. Preston—I am very much surprised that, in a moment of weakness, the Premier should characterize as "balderdash" that resolution.

The Premier—It was balderdash in the extreme when it was introduced last session.

Mr. T. H. Preston—Perhaps it was balderdash because it was introduced at a Conservative convention. (Laughter.)

Mr. Preston moved the adjournment of the debate, and the House adjourned until this afternoon.

New Bills Introduced.

Bills were introduced by the Hon. A. J. Matheson and read a first time to amend the act respecting the raising of loans, the consolidated revenue act, and to supplement the revenue of the Crown in the Province of Ontario. These bills came down as amended by the Statutes Revision Committee, and contain no new provisions of importance. Colonel Matheson also introduced his bill to amend the act respecting municipal securities. The bill gives the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board power to issue certificates to municipalities stating that debenture issues made by them are in order. This will prevent the need for municipalities coming to the Legislature for legislation confirming the by-laws under which debentures are issued. The bill also permits municipalities to pay into the Provincial treasury installments of sinking funds, and to receive 4 per cent. interest, the Government having the power to reinvest these funds. The Provincial Treasurer stated that the effect of these changes would be to facilitate the flotation of municipal loans and prevent considerable litigation.

Mr. H. W. Hoyle (North Ontario) introduced his bill to amend the landlord and tenant act, and Colonel J. Munro (North Oxford) a bill to amend the municipal act, both of which were read a first time.

Dr. R. E. Clapp (South Bruce) presented an extensively-signed petition from Brant township asking that automobiles should only be allowed on the public roads of incorporated cities, towns and villages.

The Cost of Text-books.

Mr. J. A. Auld has given notice of his intention to ask the Government on Friday as to what reductions have been made in regard to the price of text-books. He will also inquire for particulars as to the purchase of the ill-fated fishing cruiser Turbine. The Hon. Richard Harcourt is inquiring whether the Government intend to introduce legislation with regard to the safety of the public in case of fire in public buildings, and Mr. J. A. McMillan wants to know how much work has been done by the drainage referee, and what that officer has cost the Province.

First Caucus Was Held.

The supporters of the Government in the Legislature held their first caucus of the session yesterday. The discussion

Laughter