

MARCH 20, 1909.

# LIVELY TILT IN BUSINESS SITTING.

## Liberal Lieutenant and Premier Had a Clash.

## WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.

## Some Questions Concerning Insurance Conditions.

## Premier and Liberal Leader Lay Embalmers Bill to Rest—A Day of Hard Work on Supply in the Provincial Legislative.

A Friday afternoon of hard Legislative work in Committee of Supply was enlivened by a tilt between Mr. D. J. McDougal (East Ottawa) and the Premier over the O'Brien mining royalty and the Larose settlement, which furnished considerable campaign material pro and con last June. The Liberal lieutenant sought an explanation of the whole arrangement, a request the Premier interpreted as a reflection on the Minister in charge. For the moment matters looked ominous, but the breeze was only a passing incident.

### Womanhood Suffrage.

The women's suffrage movement secured official standing in the Legislature by the introduction of a bill to amend the election and consolidated municipal acts by Mr. A. E. Fripp (West Ottawa). The bill is a wholesale measure, giving women absolutely the same privileges as men in municipal and legislative elections, viz., universal suffrage for unmarried and married women and widows of the age of 21 years.

### The Embalmers Embalmed.

Sir James Whitney himself administered the quietus to the bill of Mr. Ferguson (Grenville) respecting the incorporation of embalmers.

"If we go on as we have been doing, incorporating every imaginable occupation," said the Premier. "I don't see where we are going to end. There is now no aggregation of any quasi-respectable occupation to whom we forbid articles of incorporation. I have nothing to say against these men, but there is a growing, almost universal, desire to get a diploma, with a seal on it the size of a man's head, duly framed and hung up on the wall, with, perhaps, some significant, not to say gruesome, illustrations of their calling."

"Suppose we embalm the bill," suggested the Liberal leader, smiling.

"Well, I don't think I would insist on the embalming," replied the Premier, amid renewed laughter.

The bill was withdrawn.

### The Provincial Mine.

Mr. Daniel Reed (West Wentworth) asked for information concerning the Provincial mine on the Gillies limit, while the House was in Committee of Supply. He declared that it had been talked on every election platform, and the total revenue from the mine had only been \$12,000, while an estimate of \$100,000 had been made.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane said the question was quite proper, but he did not think the Government had anything to defend. It was quite true that one shaft sunk by the Province had not turned out as well as was hoped, but other points had not yet been adequately tested.

"How is the general outlook for the mine?" asked Mr. Sam Clarke.

"Very good," replied the Minister. "I hope to see the Province make

more than \$100,000 clear profit."

"Then you'll be able to build that new railway they're talking about?" quired Mr. Studholme.

"Hear, hear," observed the Premier.

### Wanted an Explanation.

Mr. McDougal asked for an explanation of the O'Brien and Alpha Mining Co. case settlement.

"The people settled that on June 8," observed Hon. Mr. Cochrane, amid Government plaudits.

"Not at all," persisted the Ottawa man. "The people did not understand the cause of settlement. It has never been explained. One would think by reason of its peculiar character the Minister would want it cleared up."

Mr. Cochrane rose warmly. "I am not accustomed to insinuations," said he. "State plainly what you mean."

"It is said that the Minister of Mines paid out this settlement money to a near relative of his," was Mr. McDougal's retort.

"The Provincial Treasurer paid it out," said that Minister.

### Exchanged Warm Words.

"A magnificent specimen of clever repartee," replied the Ottawa member with cynical warmth. "Clever! Very clever!"

"Quite McDougalish, in fact," put in Sir James.

"And that from the Prime Minister of the Province!" continued the Opposition lieutenant.

"As a matter of fact the subject was not in my department at all," explained Mr. Cochrane in the pause that followed.

The Premier declared that no man in the Province knew more about the case than the member for Ottawa.

"I say that's wrong," put in Mr. McDougal.

"Well, I repeat it," retorted the Premier. He characterized the occurrence as "a puerile attempt to injure the Minister of Lands, to do which the member for Ottawa has not hesitated to willfully misrepresent the facts. I am astonished."

Mr. McDougal rose to a point of order. The Premier should withdraw his statement. It was not justified.

"I wish the hon. gentleman long life and happiness," said Sir James. "but if he is ever placed in the position of the Minister of Lands and Mines I trust he will be as able and as willing to turn down a relative in the cause of the people of Ontario."

### Some Insurance Inquiries.

Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Centre Huron) has placed on the order paper a series of questions calculated to open a full discussion of the question of insurance. Mr. Proudfoot will ask: What steps has the Insurance Department taken to place fraternal societies on a sound financial basis? Has the department considered the evidence taken by the Royal Commission on Insurance in 1906, at which it had counsel representing the Government? If so, what course does the Government intend to take?

Mr. Proudfoot's second series of questions are:—Is the Attorney-General aware of the condition of a number of the cash mutual fire insurance companies who have been continuously exceeding their authority under the act by writing more cash premium business than they are allowed? If so, the names and position of each. How far has each company exceeded its statutory rights? What remedy does the Government suggest or intend to apply? Is the Attorney-General aware of the Standard Mutual being unable to pay its outstanding losses and that premium note-makers will be assessed for the cash premium business? If so, what course does the Government intend to take?