

JANUARY 29, 1910.

BUDGET NEXT THURSDAY

LEGISLATURE CONCLUDES FIRST WEEK'S WORK.

Hon. Col. Matheson Pays Tribute to Sir Lomer Gouin for Contribution to Library—Press Gallery Elections.

The rapidity with which legislative work is being pushed forward was indicated by the announcement by Hon. A. J. Matheson, the Provincial Treasurer in the House yesterday that he expected to deliver the budget speech next Thursday. This is several weeks in advance of the customary financial statement.

In presenting the Government resolution expressing appreciation of the munificent donations made to aid in the reconstruction of the Provincial Library, Hon. A. J. Matheson laid special stress on the generous co-operation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Lomer Gouin.

"We have now no doubt," declared the Provincial Treasurer, "that within a few years we will have an even better library than that destroyed." (Applause.)

Two additional Government bills, the result of the statute revision work of the judges, were introduced, the act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent persons by Sir James Whitney, and the act to establish a Provincial Park by Hon. Frank Cochrane.

On motion of the Premier a special committee of fifteen members was appointed to strike the select standing committees. Hon. Mr. Foy will preside. The usual committee to act with Mr. Speaker in control of the Library was appointed.

The House went into Committee of Supply to pass the first series of supplementary estimates submitted by the Treasurer. Hon. Mr. Matheson said it had already been necessary to issue treasury board warrants for several sums. The sums approved were \$450,000 for the hydro-electric work; \$5,000 for public works; \$8,000 for public buildings; and \$15,000 for colonization roads. The amounts passed without discussion.

The only diversion the members had during the monotonous reading of the revised bills came while the House was in committee. The Premier was reading Bill No. 125 "to provide for the better government of that part of Ontario situated in the vicinity of the Falls of Niagara, when Mr. Sam. Clark (West Northumberland) interrupted:

"Why shouldn't that apply to the rest of the Province as well?" he queried.

"Probably the hon. member is the only one who thinks it is needed," answered the Premier with a smile; continuing the reading.

On motion of Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Huron) an order was issued for a return showing:—

1. The number of licenses granted to fishermen in each of the following districts in the years 1908 and 1909: (a) Lake Superior; (b) The Northern Channel of Lake Huron; (c) Georgian Bay; (d) Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair; (e) Lake Erie and Grand River; (f) Rivers St. Clair, Thames and Detroit; and (g) Lake Ontario and Bay of Quinte.

2. The kind of license granted to each fisherman.

3. The cost of licenses to fishermen of each of the above districts.

The House ratified the Provincial printing contracts with Rev. Dr. Briggs and the E. Hargourt Co., closed last June, after Mr. Studholme had satisfied himself that union wages would be paid.

The Legislative Press Gallery organized yesterday afternoon and elected the following officers:—Honorary President, Hon. Adam Beck; President, J. A. McNeil, Mail and Empire; Vice-President, E. J. Archibald, the Star; Secretary, W. N. Wilkinson, Mail and Empire; Executive Committee, Harvey Black, the News; H. W. Anderson, the Globe; C. D. Creighton, the World; J. C. Boylen, the Telegram.