

Crown lands could not be included by the company as part of the number to be brought in under the conditions imposed by the bill. Mr. Mageau gave it as his opinion that the value of the timber on the million acres was \$21,000,000. The whole scheme was a timber proposition. He thought the timber should be sold in that case, even at \$1 per thousand feet. So far as the land was concerned, he would be willing to give it to the railway, as he had faith in the future of the country.

## THREAD COMBINE TO HAVE ITS WAY

### Ontario Government Declines to Investigate

### LIBERALS MAKE AN APPEAL

Attorney-General Declares There is No Occasion for an Inquiry, Although Mr. Rowell Points Out One is in Progress in the United States.

Housekeepers will be compelled to continue paying excessive prices for thread because of the failure of the Ontario Government to prosecute the combine which largely controls the sale of thread in the Province of Ontario.

Liberal members of the Legislature appealed to the Government last evening to investigate the operations of the trust, but the appeal fell on deaf ears. Hon. Mr. Foy declared there was no occasion for the demands of the Opposition.

Mr. Rowell told the House he was credibly informed that the combine is being investigated and prosecuted in the United States, where it also operates. "If a merchant undertakes to buy thread from any other company, this trust has stated to different merchants that they must discontinue the sale of this other thread or not have theirs. It means they must completely cease to deal with others. They are controlling the thread market, they are compelling merchants to buy exclusively from them, and they are fixing the prices at which retailers must sell," said Mr. Rowell. "I submit they should be investigated and prosecuted," he added in conclusion.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) deplored the attitude of the Government towards the tack combine. Evidence on file in the Attorney-General's Department, which was taken at the investigation some time ago, showed that there was an absolute understanding between tack manufacturers that they would agree on the prices of their products before selling any of their output; also jobbers had been limited as to both buying and selling prices; men who cut the combine prices were put out of business, and output was deliberately restricted in order to maintain excessive prices.

The time had come, Mr. Elliott said, when the House and the people of the Province should have the assurance of the Attorney-General's Department that these evils, instead of being smiled upon, will be investigated and remedied.

The Middlesex Liberal's position was endorsed by Mr. T. R. Atkinson (Norfolk), who thought the high cost of living was partially due to combines.

## NOTES FROM THE LEGISLATURE.

Hasty, eleventh-hour legislation, inimical to the rights and interests of the municipalities of Goderich, Kincardine, Ashfield, and Huron township, was averted by the vigilance of the Liberals. A bill to vest the property and franchise of the Ontario & West Shore Electric Railway in a trustee was drafted without providing safeguards for the interests of the local municipalities which had guaranteed the company's bonds. Mr. Proudfoot and Mr. McDonald promptly supported Mr. Rowell in explaining the special needs and circumstances to the House and securing amendments safeguarding the local interests. It is fortunate that there is independent supervision in the rush which Ministerial dereliction precipitates as the session draws to a close.

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The Premier has already admitted that the Provincial Secretary took money for election purposes from a man who had a contract with the Province. This is a grave public scandal and a deep disgrace for the Ministry. There is even further significance in the continuation of the scheme to use the Public Accounts to suppress instead of to disclose information. What is being concealed?

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The Premier has pleaded guilty, on behalf of his colleague, to one of the most serious and sinister acts of which a public representative can be guilty. There is no denial of guilt. Why is there further concealment? Are there still more serious offences which the Premier has hope of concealing? The withholding of the Elk Lake telegram from a return to the House shows the subterfuges to which Sir James can descend. He has admitted a grave offence when exposure was imminent. Why is there further concealment, and what is there to conceal?

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A disquieting disclosure in the Public Accounts Committee was the supplying of milk from tuberculous cows to public institutions in Whitby and Toronto. Mr. Robinson, who had charge of the cattle, told of the removal of diseased cattle from a Provincial farm to Whitby. There the cows were milked, and the milk was mixed with the product of healthy animals for distribution to public institutions. The Toronto Asylum was supplied with some of this tainted milk and some was used in Whitby. There was a strenuous effort made to weaken the effect of this evidence, but the more the witness was questioned and badgered the more glaring was the dereliction disclosed. It is in such things that the toleration of incompetence brings the severest penalties. A Province endowed with vast resources can endure Governmental incompetence for years without noticeable resultant hardship. But there is always a danger that circumstances will arise demanding activity, energy, and ability, and threatening calamitous results from incompetence or neglect.

### The Farce Continued

At yesterday's session of the Public Works Committee there was a repetition of last Friday's farce, when Mr. George E. Taylor of Taylor, Scott & Co. declined to answer questions asked by Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, and was upheld by the committee.

It developed at the hearing that the Nipissing Central Railway was running a semi-professional baseball team, and that cows condemned as tubercular were shipped to the Hospital for the Insane at Whitby.