

being a candidate for election to this House." (Applause.)

Contested for 150 Years.

The Oka matter had been a source of trouble and annoyance to the Government of Canada for a century and a half, and the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had taken great interest in endeavoring to secure its settlement. The department was filled with records in connection with the matter, and both Mr. Smith and himself in preparing the case for the Indians had occasion to consult these these records and the officers of the department. The Prime Minister had stated that the Government would be glad to render every assistance to counsel for the Indians, in order that their case might be fully and fairly presented to the courts. The trial of the action was concluded some considerable time before he was elected to the Legislature, and an appeal which had been taken by Mr. Smith on behalf of the Indians was standing for judgment when the change of Government took place in September, 1911. Mr. Rowell was advised of the judgment in January, 1912, and Mr. Smith at the same time advised him that the Minister of Justice had written that no further proceedings should be taken until he could look into the matter.

No Retainer from Ottawa.

In emphasizing that there was no retainer from the Dominion Government, Mr. Rowell pointed out that Sir Wilfrid Laurier went out of power in September, 1911, and he was not elected a member of the Legislature until the following December, so he could not have received instructions from him at that time. Yet that matter was not important, as, if any retainer existed, the work done under it had been completed before the change of Government in 1911 and before he even thought of entering public life in Ontario, and the only work covered by his firm's accounts, done after he entered the House, was done upon the express instructions of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, as already indicated, in urging the Government to appeal.

His correspondence in connection with the appeal extended to Hon. A. E. Kemp, and to Mr. J. A. M. Aikins, a prominent member of the House of Commons, and a member of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church.

A Red Herring Charge.

The whole object of the hon. member for Grenville in springing the matter at the close of the session was with a view of diverting public attention from the Government's record by making a misleading and false charge without giving a fair opportunity for reply.

In connection with his retainer as counsel for the Sault industries Mr. Rowell said he was first employed by the late Government to assist in protecting the interests of the Province, and his fees were paid by the corporation, as agreed between it and the Government. These fees were fixed by the Attorney-General, now Lieutenant-Governor. "I or my firm never received a dollar from the Sault company for services rendered to the Government, the amount of which had not been approved by the Attorney-General." His firm had subsequently been retained as solicitors for the corporation. Mr. Rowell added that if there was any part of his professional work in which he might not unfairly take some pride it was the work he did in connection with the reorganization of the Sault companies.

Let Them Investigate.

Although the Speaker would not permit Mr. S. Clarke (West Northumberland) to continue the debate, he was able to say that Mr. McGarry's strictures on Mr. Rowell's connection with the Lake Superior Corporation were futile.

The fact was, he said, that the revival of the Sault industries was one of the acts which the late Government should properly claim great credit for. The whole matter was the product of jealousy on the part of Conservative members. "If my hon. friend thinks the leader of the Opposition guilty of any wrongdoing, I say let him bring a charge in this House and we will support it and give him every facility to probe his statements before a Commission."

EXPROPRIATION POWERS CURTAILED IN HOUSE

MUNICIPALITIES REFUSED LEAVE TO ACT ON SIX MONTHS' NOTICE.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, when the various clauses amending the municipal act, including the much-discussed "Gooderham bill," were considered, Hon. W. J. Hanna had the section struck out giving municipalities power to register against properties notice of expropriation, which would be operative for six months.

The Provincial Secretary pointed out that the clause as it originally came to the House in a bill from the city of Toronto asked for this right for a period of twelve months. The Municipal Committee reduced it to six months, but even as it stood the clause was anomalous, and would involve hardship in its logical application. There was an absence of any provision for compensation to a property owner whose holdings were "tied" up for the period mentioned. The clause was badly drafted.

Mr. Gooderham agreed with the Provincial Secretary. The least he could hope on another occasion was that such a bill would be properly drafted.

Legislature to Prorogue on Friday

After a session extending over ten weeks, the Legislature adjourned shortly after 5 o'clock last night for prorogation at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon. The session has been characterized by a large amount of heavy work and close application on the part of the members, and there have been more night sittings than at any time since the Gamey session in 1903. In order to get through the work on the order paper the House sat until 4 o'clock Wednesday morning and met again at noon, to sit through until all work was completed.