

ANNUITY OF \$2,000 FOR LADY WHITNEY

Legislature Provides for Wife
of Late Premier

A UNANIMOUS ACTION

Many Private Bills Were Introduced
—Mr. Studholme Delivers Lengthy
Speech on the Moratorium Bill —
Reciprocity in Automobiles.

With the concurrence of members on both sides of the House, the Legislature is to provide an annuity of \$2,000 for the widow of Sir James Whitney. The announcement by the Premier was received with applause. Mr. Hearst said Sir James Whitney had served the Province for a quarter of a century, and had he given to his private practice the same energy and ability that he devoted to public affairs his family would have been better provided for. Sir James gave of himself wholeheartedly to the public service, he labored for the welfare of the entire Province. Lady Whitney, continued the Premier, had no knowledge of his action in introducing the bill. There had been no request for an annuity from the family of the late Premier, and in making the proposal he did so entirely on his own responsibility.

"I desire to express my concurrence," said Mr. Rowell. "It is very true, as my honorable friend has said, that a public man who devotes his whole time to the public service, in view of the demands upon the position which he holds, is under conditions in this Province unable under ordinary circumstances to make careful and adequate provision for his family." (Applause.)

A Good Precedent.

This was introducing a new precedent in the Province, continued Mr. Rowell. He was not sure that it was not a good precedent. In the past supporters of political leaders on both sides had supplemented the incomes, and, on the whole, it was perhaps better to recognize the obligation in the way that was now being done.

The bill went through the first reading.

Grist of Private Bills.

A grist of private bills were introduced by members at the beginning of the sitting. Mr. W. D. McPherson (Northwest Toronto) has a radical proposal to amend the municipal act. He wants to limit the borrowing power of municipalities on a per capita basis in the following scale: Where the population is not less than 10,000 the aggregate debenture debt, exclusive of sinking funds actually on hand, shall not exceed the sum of \$200 per head of population; where the population is not less than 2,000 the amount is fixed at \$150 per head of population; in smaller places having a population not exceeding 2,000 the debt shall not exceed \$100 per head of population. It is provided, however, that the amount may be increased on an order from the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board after certain formalities are complied with. To carry out the bill the local assessor is to provide a census on each assessment roll. The bill does not affect the borrowing power under the total assessment, but seeks to prevent the assessment being unduly increased to increase the margin.

Reciprocity in Automobiles.

Mr. Geo. H. Gooderham (South-

west Toronto) will make another attempt to secure reciprocity in automobile licenses. He also has a bill to amend the local improvement act, requiring municipal engineers when tendering for work to add to their figures the cost of maintenance for the period covered by the contractor's guarantee.

Mr. Joseph H. Ham (South Brant) wants to amend the municipal act so that the usual qualification for voting will entitle a man to hold office.

The Moratorium Bill.

The moratorium bill was again discussed in committee. Mr. Stud-

holme declared that the bill took "no course at all," and that the framer had not confidence in himself to say what he wanted to say. His objection was that the part of the bill gave more power to Judges than he thought necessary. "Has any Judge more brains than this whole assembly?" asked the Labor member. The bill was cried as the savior of the class to which it was no use at all. He was disappointed, as he supposed the Legislature big enough to protect the Labor men. He was willing to move for a six months' hoist. His motion to strike out the word "war" in the operative clause, thus making a general application, was lost on a vote.

Samuel Carter (South Wellington) declared that a man with a few hundred would not go to court but would relinquish his property. He wanted a clause added that in mortgages of \$1,000 or \$1,500 as long as the interest was paid up there could be no action to recover any of the principal.

Should Not Cover Mortgages.

Mark Irish pointed out that the bill should not cover mortgages that are pledged to a trustee to secure a bond issue when the bonds are sold to small holders who anticipate paying into the sinking fund. The bill as it was might allow them to defer payments into the sinking fund, which was not controlled by the trustee. The suggestion was adopted and put in the bill for further consideration.

An important point settled upon the Judges concerned the right to fix rates of interest in actions where capital payments could not be made. Another amendment ruled that in subdivisions men who could not compel purchasers to pay their installments could not in turn be compelled to make improvements on the property.

Work in Armament Factories.

Mr. Studholme, speaking on the bill to extend the municipal suffrage to married women, incidentally pointed out that he had taken up with Premier Hearst the matter of getting skilled workmen back to England to work in the armament factories where such labor was required. The Premier, said Mr. Studholme, had taken the matter up at Ottawa. Mr. Studholme moved the adjournment of the debate at 6 o'clock.