

Mathieu had stated that he had the Government patronage in his riding. He proceeded to point out in vigorous terms that the timber agent had been appointed on the recommendation of Mr. Mathieu and some cullers—all men who had everything to do with saying just how much Mr. Mathieu's company was to pay the Government in respect to timber dues.

"This is a war of systems, Mr. Speaker," declared the Attorney-General, "not a war of individuals at all. Under this system the member of one of the greatest companies in the North country appoints the timber agent and he appoints the cullers. When we start out to reform the system honorable members from the other side shout 'You are after Ferguson.' We are not after Ferguson at all."

Proceeding, the Attorney-General asked House members what they presumed North country cullers did in return for the \$125 per month they drew from the Shevlin-Clarke Co. while nominally in Government employ.

#### May Have "Bought" Over-run.

Z. Mageau, from his seat in the Liberal benches, interrupted with the suggestion that the Shevlin-Clarke Co. thereby purchased a 220 per cent. over-run. In this connection Hon. Mr. Raney denounced the system of paying Government cullers a meagre wage for a few months of the year, with which, he pointed out, they could not possibly maintain a position independent of the companies.

The old system, he continued, which was defended by Hon. G. H. Ferguson, was a "system of organized fraud, of organized piracy, under the guise of patronage. You cannot talk about that system without talking about crime. It is founded and based on deceit and political patronage."

He criticized severely Hon. G. H. Ferguson and the Shevlin-Clarke Co. principals for not themselves coming out and assisting the Timber Commissioners in getting out the facts instead of defending and even obstructing investigation. Had anyone, he asked, ever heard of this company, through its Manager occupying a seat in the Legislature, coming out and attempting itself to investigate the forgeries, perjuries and bribes? On the contrary, these things were being defended word by word, line by line, and the people of Ontario were told by Hon. Mr. Ferguson that the whole inquiry was an "infernal farce."

The Attorney-General regretted that the issue had been forced on the Legislature by members in the Conservative ranks. Only force of circumstances, he said, would have compelled him to discuss timber affairs now under investigation. But either the Conservative Leader must admit the present system to be vicious, and offer his aid toward improving it, or he must defend the system openly "and take sides with the timber pirates."

Any suggestion, such as that credited to Hon. Mr. Ferguson, to the effect that he would make the Timber Commissioners' names "by-words" in the mouths of the people of the Province, Hon. Mr. Raney declared to be unworthy a member of the Legislature. "It is particularly unworthy of a Leader of one of the parties in this House," he added, "and, with added emphasis, it is still more unworthy that a man should so exploit his own grievances. . . . These tactics are tactics of the jungle."

Hon. Mr. Raney proceeded to explain his position in the House when he had interrupted the Minister of Lands and Forests in his reply to the question on the order paper relative to the over-run tests. He desired to state to the House, he said, that the data was not yet to hand from the North country, that the figures had not yet come within the knowledge of the Attorney-General and Government counsel, and that he had intended asking for a few days' delay when prevented from doing so "by the clamor of honorable gentlemen opposite."

The Attorney-General drew attention to what he considered a significant fact, that, while two of the Government's own expert scalers were in the company mills, the over-run figures invariably came down to just about the average set by the Timber Commissioners as proper. He went into lengthy details to

show that the commissioners' findings as to over-run coincided with years of experience of North country lumbermen.

Whatever doubts there had been in his mind as to the wisdom of placing these timber over-run test figures before the House, the Attorney-General declared, in view of the partial information which had got out, it was, in his opinion, now necessary to give the House all the facts and table the reports when they arrived.

#### Shevlin-Clarke Manager.

Information regarding the use of the Doyle rule was given by J. A. Mathieu, Conservative member for Rainy River, General Manager of the Shevlin-Clarke Company, who repudiated the idea that "because over-run is such an amount in one mill it should be the same in another." A dozen factors, he said, entered into the use of the rule, and anyone who did not allow for these knew nothing about lumbering.

"I am General Manager of the Shevlin-Clarke Co.," he said, "and I want to say I am not ashamed of my connection with that company, or with patronage, or with anything in my political life in this Province since the year 1911."

His company, Mr. Mathieu said, had begged the Government to put scalers on Shevlin-Clarke logs and in their own mills. "They would not do it," he declared, "because they were afraid."

The statement of his concern, he went on, showed that Shevlin-Clarke had secured an over-run of 121 per cent. and of 53 per cent. in merchantable timber. Why had not the commissioners quoted the statements in full, covering a period of years, he asked, rather than such figures as seemed to suit their desires or the opinion of the public?

Further, he charged, the commissioners had been unfair and arbitrary in their treatment of his company, summoning all the employees but two foremen and "tying up operations on the whole drive for ten days."

#### The Government Scaler.

Regarding James McIvor, Government scaler, who had been employed by his company, Mr. Mathieu stated that on hiring the gentleman he was unaware that McIvor was a Government scaler.

"I hired him at \$125 a month," he said, "and I didn't know for years after that he was in the Government employ. We didn't know about it, though it went on for years and years."

Mr. Mathieu stated that he had considerable data to look up regarding his case and at 11 o'clock moved adjournment of the debate.

Premier Drury made objection on the ground that too much time was being lost by the House, but acceded to the request of the member for Rainy River. The House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

## EARLY CLOSING BY-LAW TO BE MORE STRINGENT

### LEGISLATION INTRODUCED WOULD CLOSE LOOPHOLES IN PRESENT LAW

Legislation introduced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Alex. Lewis, Conservative member for Northeast Toronto, proposes to still further tighten the early-closing by-law, which the merchants' organizations feel is being evaded in some quarters. According to the terms of Mr. Lewis' bill, only such shops shall be exempted from the stipulations of the early-closing by-law as confine themselves exclusively to the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The complaint which the bill is intended to meet is to the effect that some fruiterers have taken advantage of their exempted position to lay in a stock of breakfast foods, canned goods, etc., and dispose of them after the regulation hour of closing for grocery stores. The original legislation along early-closing lines included fruiterers within its scope, but the Curry amendment of last session exempted them.