

How Price Was Arrived At.

Macdonald's estimate of pine on these berths was less than half the estimate of Gamble and Rochester. Macdonald said in his evidence that he arrived at a price from the price fixed by him in 1917 for berth 51, and admitted that he knew nothing about the value in either case, Mr. Raney said.

A timber cruise, said the Attorney-General, properly made, is a scientific operation. A proper cruise of these limits by experienced woodmen would have required about three months. Young Macdonald and his helper spent a fortnight, or three weeks at most, on the berths.

"In these two transactions the late Government parted with nearly 200,000,000 feet of pine timber on the reports of a young man who knew nothing of timber cruising or of timber values, who was practically the employee of the purchaser of the timber, and whose reports to the Government, as it now appears, were fabricated. Did the Shevlin-Clarke Company contribute to the cost of the beautiful life-size lithographs that adorned the billboards of this Province just prior to the elections of 1919? No doubt the honorable member for Grenville will know. If so, how much? If not, the company was very ungrateful."

To Prove Culmination.

After reviewing the terms of the settlement, the Attorney-General said that the Government was influenced by considerations other than the mere amount of money involved. Some of these considerations he was not at liberty to discuss at this time, but he could mention two of them. First, if the litigation had proceeded, the Government was convinced that the company would have closed down, perhaps would have been compelled to close down, its plants at Fort Frances. Secondly, the company was not the only party guilty of misconduct with regard to the matters covered by the lawsuits. The

accredited representatives of the Government were equally guilty.

"In conclusion, permit me to say that I trust that this litigation will prove the culmination of a system of mismanagement of the timber resources of this Province," said Mr. Raney. "If that end is accomplished the mere matter of dollars and cents involved in this settlement, or in any other settlements which may be made with other companies who have obtained improper advantages at the expense of the Government, will be a comparatively unimportant matter."

Credit to Liberal Party.

Z. Mageau, Liberal member for Sturgeon Falls, contended that the Liberal party, under H. H. Dewart, K. C., should be given credit for getting at the bottom of timber conditions in the North Country. He did not think the Conservative Leader could ever vindicate himself before the House and the public for his administration of the Lands and Forests Department.

Mr. Mageau gave the Drury Government some credit for its handling of the situation which it found upon coming into office, and expressed the opinion that its settlement was a pretty good thing for the Province, in view of the difficult situation which had presented itself.

R. R. Hall, Liberal member for Parry Sound, also presented to the House and the public the view that the real task of cleaning up, and the hardest portion of it, had been done by the Liberal party. He thought they had been successful in pressing it upon the minds of the people that there was a "nigger in the old Government's wood-pile which had to be shaken out."

Mr. Hall said that the U.F.O. had been reaping where the Liberals had sown.

W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal, South Ontario, moved the adjournment.

CUT TAX BILLS OF DISTILLERS

Many Private Bills Are Introduced in Legislature

RAISE BOND INTEREST

Hon. W. E. Raney told the House yesterday that if a certain celebrated libel action came on again while the House was in session, and if the state of public business permitted it, the Premier and himself would be glad to attend and give evidence. He made this statement in answer to a query from Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, who said he thought a wrong impression was getting out that members of the House were using the privilege of the House to avoid going into the witness box.

The Attorney-General told the Legislature that the agreement entered into with E. W. Backus was completed. It was an agreement that bound the Government.

Keeps Them in Place.

Speaker Parliament announced that, unless under exceptional circumstances, and with the unanimous consent of the House, members would be asked when speaking to speak from their own places.

Something like 25 bills were introduced by private members yesterday, about the biggest day this session. Most of them were of local application.

A bill to reduce the business assessment of distillers was introduced by R. L. Brackin, K.C., West Kent. Mr. Brackin proposes to place distillers upon the same basis as manufacturers, by making their business assessment 60 per cent. of the property assessment, instead of 150 per cent., as at present.

Mr. Brackin also introduced a private bill, the intent of which is to give the London Street Railway Company the right to charge a straight five-cent fare on its lines. The bill will be opposed by Dr. Stevenson, member for London, on the ground that it is an attempt to coerce the city, which has a franchise covering rates.

Increase Interest Rate.

J. W. Curry, K.C., brought before the House a bill to give the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board power to approve of an increase in the interest rate on municipal debentures. With bond prices rising, the opinion of financiers was that a debenture issued at a premium was not as salable a proposition as one bearing a lower rate and sold at par or at a slight discount, said Dr. Stevenson.

R. R. Hall, Parry Sound, introduced a bill which is intended to give township Councils in the district of Parry Sound the right to sell lands for taxes directly, instead of through the Sheriff.

R. L. Brackin, K.C., submitted a bill to give villages and townships the right, in assessing for local improvement, to assess specified districts, while J. C. Tolmie, Windsor, introduced a measure to permit villages to extend Provincial or county highways out to the curbs by paying the additional cost.