

out further disclosures much more reprehensible than anything hitherto unfolded. The Attorney-General and H. D. Lockhart Gordon, his expert auditor, were both asked about the expected further disclosures, but they declined to enter into any discussion of the article in The Globe. Mr. Lockhart Gordon is a member of the Clarkson firm, of which G. T. Clarkson, Liquidator of the Home Bank, is the head. His special duties were to advise the Attorney-General respecting matters that might come within the category of criminal prosecutions. He made a special report to Hon. Mr. Nickle on the subject of "commissions," the full details of which are only now getting to the public.

"The history of Canadian banking and government does not contain anything which constitutes such a scandal," said a city financier in a position to know in commenting on the latest revelations brought out in the examination of the Home Bank books.

PURCHASE OF BONDS IS DULY AUTHORIZED BY EIGHT MINISTERS

Reported Present When Order Was Passed to Buy From Securities Co.

FERGUSON GIVES NAMES

Messrs. Drury, Raney, Nixon, Smith, Bowman, Biggs, Grant and Mills were the members of the former Government present at Council when the Order-in-Council was passed on February 10, 1921, authorizing the purchase of £50,000 worth of inscribed stock from the Provincial Securities Company, it was said in the Legislature yesterday by Premier Ferguson, in answer to a question by E. C. Graves (Conservative, St. Catharines). The Order-in-Council authorized purchase at par, with par of exchange and accrued interest, the Premier's answer said. The Order-in-Council, he stated further, was signed by Hon. E. C. Drury.

Sums Due Lands and Forests.

Hon. Manning Doherty, Progressive Leader, asked what amount of money was due to the Lands and Forests Department on Oct. 31 last, and by what firms owing. The amount was stated by Hon. James W. Lyons, the Minister, to be \$2,231,000, but he added that it was not deemed expedient to name any firms. The money was owing for bonuses and timber dues, he said. Answering a further question by A. M. Rankin (Conservative, Frontenac), Mr. Lyons said that on Oct. 31, 1921, there was due the department the sum of \$2,608,519.55; and on Oct. 31, 1922, there was due the department the sum of \$1,645,155.49.

Regarding Good Roads.

Answering a series of questions by Hon. F. C. Biggs (Progressive, North Westworth), as to Government intentions respecting county, township and county road systems, statute labor in municipalities, and if the Government intended to appoint permanent road superintendents for townships, the Premier replied these things all were optional with the local municipalities. The adjustment, as suggested by Mr. Irwin of the department, would not be part of the duties of the House Committee on Highways, the Premier said.

Fees Paid Land Valuator.

Dr. Gilbert White, the Premier said, while employed as adjuster and land valuator on the Picton-Belleville Provincial Highway, received \$6 per day and \$5 per day as expenses. In 1922 he received \$1,947, and in 1923 he received \$1,980. He was employed from June 8, 1922, to July 28, 1923. These answers were given to a series of questions filed by H. S. Colliver (Conservative, Prince Edward).

CRUSADE OF BOWMAN ON TIMBER CUTTERS CAUSES LIVELY ROW

Premier Wants to Know Why Demand on Nicholson Was Reduced

PROMISES HE MUST PAY

As an aftermath of the statements Friday afternoon of Hon. James W. Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, concerning investigations of Mr. Roebuck into alleged trespasses of the Austin Nicholson Lumber Company, and the reply made yesterday in the Legislature by Hon. Beniah Bowman (Progressive, Manitoulin), former Minister of Lands and Forests, a verbal battle of charge and counter-charge, quip and repartee, was waged on the floor of the House for almost two hours.

Bowman's Contention.

Mr. Bowman claimed that the Government of his day had learned that the Nicholson company was cutting off lands it had no right to cut off and Mr. Roebuck was detailed to investigate. He based his findings on an estimate of \$15 a tree, as provided by the Crown Timber Act, having employed cruisers to count the stumps. The Austin Nicholson company had claimed that at some time it had been given the right to go to the height of land, but no such authorization could be found in the files of the department, Mr. Bowman said. The company never admitted it had not a right to go to the height of land.

The report the Government received alleged the company had gone outside the blocks and cut some of the best timber off them, Mr. Bowman proceeded. The Government told the company that it had taken timber outside its blocks so the Government would do the square thing and make the company take all the timber in the territory in which it trespassed. "I think, in view of all the circumstances, we made a very reasonable settlement with Austin Nicholson, a settlement at a minimum," declared Mr. Bowman.

Who Appointed Roebuck?

Mr. Lyons asked how Mr. Bowman decided the amount was a minimum, and for the next hour there was almost a continual cross-fire and interchange of arguments. Mr. Lyons alluded to the investigation as a "nefarious deal," while the Premier added that Nicholson had been brought to Roebuck's house, and, speaking figuratively, had "had a pistol pointed at his head." Then an argument arose as to who had appointed Mr. Roebuck, and Mr. Bowman thought he himself had instructed Mr. Roebuck.

Hon. Manning Doherty, Progressive Leader, then reviewed the situation, and said that this was a lumber company very friendly to the former Conservative Government. "Like most of the lumber companies in the North, they thought it was a free and easy time for them, and they wandered out of their limits." The two millions-odd could not in any sense be arrived at as an exact figure, but as an estimate, he said. It was a perfectly proper thing for Mr. Roebuck to put these findings before Mr. Nicholson, said Mr. Doherty.

Decided on \$28,000.

Proceeding, Mr. Doherty said that negotiations were carried on with Mr. Nicholson, and the department, the officials and the Minister finally deciding that Mr. Nicholson should pay to the Government about \$28,000. The matter was a perfectly legitimate transaction and the lumber firm could have no objections to the amount it had to pay, he argued.

When the Premier said that the former Attorney-General had secured Mr. Roebuck's services, Mr. Raney said, "That's not true!" Mr. Ferguson said that Roebuck brought practically every lumberman in the North country to his (Roebuck's) house in Moore Park.

and "he pointed out to them the danger of not doing what the Government wanted them to do." The former Government did not collect a dollar from any man it did not "coerce and blackmail," declared Mr. Ferguson.

"Particularly the Shevlin-Clarke," said Mr. Raney. "You'll forgive them all now."

The Premier said that, as part of the \$28,000 agreement, four new townships were given to the company at the same price as in 1909. Mr. Doherty claimed these were the townships that were cut into in the alleged trespass.

"That's what you call coercion," said the Premier. Proceeding, Mr. Ferguson said he ventured to say the former Minister of Lands did not approve of the things done. Mr. Bowman said he had retained Mr. Roebuck.

"Take it back now," said Mr. Raney. The Premier asked if he had authority to direct Mr. Roebuck, or if the authority had been vested in Council.

"I had the authority," said Mr. Bowman.

"There is an affidavit here to the contrary," said Mr. Lyons.

"Is there? Come on, let's hear it," invited Mr. Bowman.

Mr. Bowman maintained that the time had gone by when the money due should have been paid.

Why Was Amount Reduced?

Mr. Lyons said that the mystery was that the two millions-odd amount should have been reduced to \$28,000. Mr. Bowman said he took the responsibility for the reduction of the account. Mr. Doherty wanted to know if Mr. Lyons would take the responsibility for collecting the \$28,000, and Mr. Raney asked him if he thought the amount was too much or too little. Mr. Lyons said he was not interested in that. He wanted to know how it was reduced.

Sam Clarke (Liberal, West Northumberland) said he did not think the Government put the case fairly when it led people to believe the Province lost anything between the \$28,000 amount and the two millions-odd amount. If Roebuck's original estimate was correct and his figures right, then it was up to the Government to go after the amount, he declared.

The Premier said that when it was found the first report was so absurd that everybody laughed at it, then Roebuck was ordered to make another report, and "they thought Nicholson would jump at it. But he refused to pay." Mr. Doherty said that Roebuck's first report was based on cruisers' estimates, and he included in his report the amounts, in their judgment, of trespass by the company. There never had been any report by Roebuck advising the Government to make a claim of two millions. The report said that, according to these cruisers, the penalty amounted to that.

Answering a question, the Premier said that the company would have to pay everything it was entitled to pay. He intimated that Nicholson was taking the matter into the courts.