WAR AGAINST THE FORESTS.

THE ADIRONDACK BILL IN JEOPARDY IN THE ASSEMBLY.

A Combined Attack by the Lumbermen and Logrollers—Gov. Cleveland Causes a Sensation by Pointing Out Frauds in the Repairing of Arsenals and Armories.

ALBANY, March 6.—The first discussion of the Adirondack forest question to-day developed the fact that the lumbermen outside and the logrollers inside of the Capitol have formed a combination which threatens to be powerful enough to defeat any legislation. So well organized was the opposition that had not Gen. Husted come to the rescue, and got the bill made a special order again for Monday night, the enacting clause would have been stricken out to-day by the logrollers.

The bill under discussion in Committee of the Whole was Mr. Boynton's, which was in substance the same as the original Lansing bill. Mr. Boynton had promised to accept some of the amendments proposed by the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, and to submit others for the consideration of the House. He said, in opening the discussion, that the Committee on Public Lands, of which he was Chairman, had recognized the importance of taking measures for the preservation of our forests, upon which depended the supply of water sufficient for the canals and rivers of the State. The committee believed the State should hold the lands now owned by it and such lands as might naturally accrue.

Mr. Scott inquired whether the bill reported by the Committee on Public Lands applied to lands not belonging to the State.

Mr. Boynton replied that it did not provide for the taking of private lands, but it reserved all State lands within the limits defined, and provided for including in the reservation such lands as might accrue to the State.

Mr. O'Neil of Franklin led off in the attempt to reduce the boundaries of the proposed reservation by excluding certain lands in Franklin county. His amendment prevailed.

Then Mr. Boynton offered an amendment increasing the appropriation to carry out the provisions of the bill from $10,000 to $20,000. This increase, which is $10,000 less than the sum asked by the Chamber of Commerce, was agreed to.

Mr. Boynton next offered the Chamber of Commerce amendment providing for a Board of three Commissioners to superintend the proposed reservation. This amendment had been rejected by the Public Land Committee, which favored a single superintendent, as provided for in the Boynton bill.

Mr. Kelly opposed the amendment. The committee had decided unanimously that the Commission should be single headed.

Chairman Littlejohn of Oswego took the floor and thundered against the amendment and the bill generally. He depicted the black line which was to be drawn around 4,700,000 acres of land. There was something underneath this movement, he said, that he wanted to understand. Most of the waters in the tract that it was proposed to take flowed to the St. Lawrence, and not to the Hudson. If such a measure as that proposed was to be passed there was no necessity for three Commissioners. The lands could be cared for by the Comptroller and his clerks.

Mr. Boynton said he wanted it understood that he only offered the amendment for consideration. He wasn't urging its adoption. The creation of the great boundary line seemed to be a great bugbear in the eyes of some men.

Mr. Littlejohn—It is in mine.

Mr. Boynton, continuing, said that all the line did was to reserve from sale the State lands around which it was drawn.

Lumberman Shoemaker of Onondaga came to the rescue of his brother woodchoppers. He did not propose to pass any laws to rob the people of the State. The bill was all wrong, and ought to be killed.

Mr. Roosevelt favored three Commissioners in a speech in which he strongly set forth the arguments in support of forest preservation. He warned them that the cause of the Ohio floods had been directly traced to the destruction of forests at the sources of the Ohio and its tributaries. In the south of France, he said, where the cutting down of forests in the mountains had caused great devastation by floods, the French Government, at great expense, had reforested the forests. Within years the floods had largely ceased. The new growth of timber on the Catskills, where the hemlocks had been cut off years ago, too, was already increasing the volume of the mountain streams, although it would be long before the new growth would be equal to the primeval forests as reservoirs.

There was an amusing passage at arms between Lumberman Shoemaker and Mr. Roosevelt, which greatly angered the saline woodchopper. It started in an interruption of Mr. Roosevelt's speech by the lumberman with the impertinent inquiry whether Mr. Roosevelt knew how trees were cut down.

Mr. Roosevelt laughingly replied that he was not teaching a primary class, but that Lumberman Shoemaker could take his choice between an axe and a cross-cut saw, and perhaps he could cut down his speeches to good advantage, also.

The ancient lumberman got the floor again, and administered a severe rebuke to the young man who, he said, had slapped him in the face. He pictured Roosevelt as a babe in swaddling clothes when himself and other elder woodchoppers were statesmen in middle life.

The gigantic lumberman, Curtis, the civil service victim, tried to make a funny speech. His wit was as graceful as an elephant's antics on a tight rope, and his ideas as waterlogged as a St. Lawrence sycamore.

Mr. House took occasion later on to score the St. Lawrence log roller very neatly, and likened him to Proctor Knott as a humorist.

Mr. Rice of Ontario voiced the sentiment of some of the central counties against the bill. He thought it would entail a vast expense on the taxpayers. It was like laying the foundation of another Capitol building. He believed that those who proposed to open this new avenue for expenditure would be visited with curses louder than those now hurled at the new Capitol.

The amendment providing for three Commissioners was rejected by a large majority.

Mr. Smith of Clinton, on his representation that the boundary line of the reservation had been drawn around a detached section of his county far removed from the Hudson watershed, got his county exempted.

Then the log rollers and lumbermen began to get in their work in earnest. Erwin, the St. Lawrence war horse, champed his bits and grew restless in his desire to charge home on the defenders of the bill. He saw the strength of his own side, and the lack of generalship and enthusiasm on the other. Allen of Lewis county, a usually modest member, fairly took the breath from the friends of the bill by proposing to exempt from the bill