

Jan'y 23/02

A CONCILIATION ACT.

EXTENSION OF ONTARIO BUREAU OF LABOR DUTIES.

Mr. Preston's Bill—Resumption of the Budget Debate in the Legislature—Constitution of the Ontario Medical Council.

The debate on the budget was resumed in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. Speeches were made by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Preston, and Dr. Barr had but commenced his contribution to the discussion when the House adjourned at 6 o'clock. Mr. Thompson, who is a bright speaker, repeated many of the Opposition arguments, and made a charge that the Labor Bureau was not useful, in that it failed to protect labor in a lockout at Orillia. Mr. Preston spoke in his usual vigorous and argumentative manner, which is fast bringing him to the front among the debaters of the House. Dr. Barr found ground for congratulation in the form in which the public accounts were printed, but declared the committee did not give the Opposition a fair chance in investigating accounts. The debate will be resumed on Tuesday next.

A large number of prohibition petitions were presented.

An Arbitration Act.

The following public bills were introduced:—

Mr. Preston—A conciliation and arbitration act. This provides that on the request of the Mayor or other head of a municipality in which a lockout or strike is threatened, the Secretary of the Ontario Labor Bureau shall proceed to such municipality and use his best endeavors with all parties concerned to avert such strike or lockout.

Mr. Macdiarmid—To amend the assessment act by abolishing the poll tax.

Dr. Jessop—To amend the Ontario medical act by changing the constitution of the Ontario Medical Council so as to have its membership of thirty elected by the profession at large. At present five members represent the homeopathic practitioners, eight are the non-elected appointees of four medical colleges connected with Toronto University, Trinity University, Queen's University and the Western University of London. The other seventeen are elected by the general practitioners of the Province.

The Greatest Financier.

Mr. Thompson (Centre Simcoe), in resuming the debate on the budget, expressed the opinion that every ratepayer in the Province owed a debt of gratitude to the member for South Lanark (Col. Matheson) for his well thought out and careful criticism of the financial status of the Province. Neither the present Treasurer nor his predecessor had ever shown such a grasp of the financial affairs of the Province as Col. Matheson had. (Government cries of "Oh, oh.") The member for Brockville (Mr. Graham) had, he continued, eulogized the Labor Bureau and its work. He had dwelt on the right of labor to organize, and had spoken of signs which indicated a better understanding between the laborer and the capitalist. One year ago the Liberal candidate for East Simcoe had closed the doors on his workmen because they had dared to form a union, and did not take them back until they had renounced the principles of labor unionism and signed a declaration that they would not form a union. The Labor Bureau surely could not have been ignorant of this occurrence. It was fully reported in the newspapers devoted entirely to the interests of labor and in other journals. He had been told also that in the municipal elections at Brockville the Mayor and a number of Aldermen had come out on the labor platform, and Mr. Graham had opposed them personally and in his paper.

Mr. Graham—The information which the hon. gentleman has received is false. I did not, directly or indirectly, oppose any labor candidate in the Town of Brockville.

Mr. Whitney—Did you support them?

Mr. Graham replied that he had voted for several of them.

Mr. Thompson, continuing, said his information had been received on what he had believed to be good authority, but he readily accepted the hon. gentleman's explanation.

Have a Well-defined Policy.

The Opposition, he declared, had a well-defined policy on all the great questions of the day, in spite of Mr. Graham's contention to the contrary, and the Government had admitted this by taking the Opposition's timber policy and dealing with it as their own. He asked what had become of the Premier's dressed beef scheme, and in this connection said the Minister of Agriculture had shown his faith in the project and in the country by investing in a ranch in North Dakota. The Premier's plan for remount stations in the Province had also failed. It was true that the Premier had visited England, and the public accounts showed an expenditure for that. But the House had now been