

George  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 1912

The attempt of the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature to force the City Council of Ottawa to pay a disputed claim of \$22,000 now in the courts for the construction of a grand stand as a condition prior to the passage of a bill authorizing the issue of debentures for the erection of a new and much-needed smallpox hospital is inducing Conservative papers to speak right out in meeting. The Toronto World says: "May we ask Chairman Lucas and the members of the Private Bills Committee who it is that controls this claim and is to get the \$22,000? Why is this person or firm unable to collect the money through the courts? Is there a nigger in the woodpile, and what is the name of the colored gentleman? Upon what meat does he feed that he is able to turn the Ontario Legislature into a debt-collecting agency?" When questions like these are publicly asked they demand a public answer. Mr. Lucas has the floor.