

Mr. William Proudfoot (Centre Huron) supported the contentions of Mr. Rowell and accused the Government of trying to steal the policies of the Opposition. The Premier was asking the Speaker to make a precedent whereby they were going to prevent the Legislature from properly discussing the Speech from the Throne. Why did not the Prime Minister seek to rule the amendment out of order when it was introduced instead of five days later? "It is an afterthought," commented Mr. Proudfoot. "It is an attempt on the part of the Government to prevent discussion."

Mr. Ferguson Reads The Globe.

Hon. Howard Ferguson said it was admitted that any member of the Legislature had the undoubted right to rise and make any resolution upon any subject, but in an assembly of this kind there must surely be methods of procedure adopted relating to the conduct of affairs. He maintained that a motion was out of order if anticipating a matter standing on the notice paper as an order of the day, as a notice of motion or as an amendment appointed for a future day. "Somebody suggested," said Mr. Ferguson, "that there was an attempt to anticipate the expression of view of the Opposition. There is no necessity of anticipating that. We read it every morning in The Globe newspaper. The business of the House must be conducted along some sort of decorous line and in accordance with the procedure laid down in the rules."

Two Fathers of Woman Suffrage

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) characterized what the Premier proposed as a most serious invasion of rights. It was a serious precedent to follow, and he submitted with very great respect that it was one which could not be justified under any of the rules of the House or any other assembly.

Mr. J. W. Johnson (West Hastings) repudiated any question as to his bona-fides in submitting his bill. "That is my child," he said. "I was present at its birth." With the assistance of the Government he hoped the bill would be unanimously adopted by the House.

Mr. Allan Studholme raised some amusement when he declared that Mr. Johnson was not the father of this child. "He must be dreaming," said Mr. Studholme, "I was in this House in 1907, and a member by the name of Smith, representing Peel, was the father of the child at that time."

Anticipation of Legislation.

Mr. Hartley Dewart (Southwest Toronto) considered that the argument that was urged by the Premier with reference to this anticipating legislation was used in a sense in which it was not intended by the rules of debate. The anticipation of legislation must be the anticipation of legislation that was contemplated by the Government or contemplated in the Address, and unless the legislation was in such contemplation the rule the Premier had urged had no application. When the Speech from the Throne was considered he found it was free from any reference to any such subject. "I find it deals with all the different climatic conditions of the Province—(laughter)—and other matters, but there is not one suggestion of any attempt at legislation along the line indicated by the amendment, or even any statement that it was a matter of contemplation of the Government." Describing the Government's attitude, he declared it was a matter of jockeying for position, and the Conservatives felt they had been out-jockeyed.

Opposition Leader Within His Rights

Mr. Rowell pointed out that the Address contained references to votes for soldiers, to co-operation and two or three other matters now before the House, and if the Premier's point was well taken, then it was not in order to pass a motion to thank his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for these matters because it was anticipating action by the House when the bill would come up. "I submit further," said Mr. Rowell, "if the matter is properly before the House, as undoubtedly it is, then it is in defiance of all

the rules of the House to deny a proper amendment to the resolution. It is wholly unwarranted, and again I repeat my honorable friend cannot find precedents for anything of the kind in Parliamentary history."

The Speaker ruled in favor of the Premier and declared the amendment out of order. Mr. Rowell appealed from the ruling of the Chair, but on a vote being taken the Speaker's ruling was sustained on a straight party vote of fifty-eight to twenty-seven.

ONTARIO IS TO HAVE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Director to Have Rank of
Deputy Minister

TO COLLECT INFORMATION

Hon. W. D. McPherson, in Legislature,
Introduces Act Which Covers Wide
Range of Civic Affairs, Including
Operation of Laws Elsewhere.

An act to establish a branch of the public service of Ontario, to be known as the Bureau of Municipal Affairs, was introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary. The bureau will be in charge of a director, who will be assisted by such engineers, inspectors, auditors and other officials as may be necessary.

Director a Deputy Minister.

Mr. McPherson said the legislation was introduced in response to the requests made to the Government some time back. The bureau is to be attached to one of the existing departments and the director will have the rank of a Deputy Minister. The municipal and school accounts audit act will be administered by the bureau and the Provincial Municipal Auditor will be an officer of the bureau; also the offices of the Drainage Referee and of the Official Arbitrator in connection with the municipal arbitrations act will be attached to the bureau. All returns hitherto made to the Secretary of the Bureau of Industries will now be made to the new bureau. The board will superintend the system of bookkeeping and keeping accounts of the assets, liabilities, etc., of all public utilities which are operated by municipal corporations or Commissions and may require returns from them. Municipal electrical power concerns, however, are not affected by this.

Collect Information.

The bureau will send to clerks of municipalities bulletins dealing with the administration of municipal affairs in order to secure uniformity, efficiency and economy. It will collect information concerning the affairs of municipal corporations and consider and report upon the operation of laws in force in other Provinces, as well as in the motherland and foreign countries, having for their object the more efficient administration of municipal corporations.

It will report upon petitions or suggestions for changes in Ontario laws relating to the powers and duties of municipal corporations. It will report annually to the Government.