

HEARST GOVT. REFUSES COMBINE PROSECUTION

Elliott Resolution Censuring Administration Defeated

RACE - TRACKS DISCUSSED

Government Vote on West Middlesex
Member's "Combine" Resolution
Was 54 to 25 — Proudfoot Hints
Government is Protecting Friends.

By a vote of 54 to 25, the Government in the Legislature yesterday afternoon defeated a resolution introduced by Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex), condemning the Hearst Administration for abandoning the investigation and prosecution of illegal combines.

The resolution was in the following terms:

"In view of the present high cost of living and the increasing burden upon the working classes and those in receipt of limited incomes, due to the high cost of the necessaries of life, this House condemns the abandonment by the Government of the investigation and prosecution of the illegal combines formed to limit competition and to enhance prices, notwithstanding the advice of the then Crown Attorney of the city of Toronto, that these combines were violating the provisions of the criminal code, and that the Government was in possession of the necessary evidence to proceed with prosecution; and this House is of the opinion that these illegal combines to enhance prices still exist in the Province, and that it is the duty of the Government to investigate all alleged illegal combinations in restraint of trade and to prosecute vigorously all those which appear to be violating the law, and to take all such further action as may protect the consumer against the cost of the necessaries of life being unduly enhanced by monopolies and combines which unfairly limit that competition."

Receive More Attention.

Mr. Elliott, in support of his motion, thought the matter was not receiving the attention it ought to receive from the Attorney-General's Department at a time when the cost of the necessaries of life were falling so heavily upon the people. In 1906 when prosecutions were instituted a number of convictions were secured, but other cases were allowed to go on suspended sentence. He considered that conditions had not improved since then and maintained that the matter should be diligently investigated. He suggested that in any case where there was suspicion that a combine existed that investigation should be conducted by somebody who is free to a large extent to devote his time to these important matters.

Premier Hearst said this motion could be accepted as a vote of want of confidence in the Government. If the member for West Middlesex desired to bring the matter up in a non-partisan way it would have been brought up in some other method than the one chosen. The motion was one of lack of confidence and therefore the Government would ask its followers to negative the resolution. The matter brought before the House was an old story, and satisfactory answer had been given by the former Attorney-General, Mr. Foy. The House and country could rest assured that the Attorney-General would be alert to do his duty in this and every other matter pertaining to the administration of justice.

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) did not think the Attorney-General, if he took action, would have to go very far to prove successfully that there were combines.

Increase Production.

Mr. Hugh Munro (Glengarry) said one way to meet the increased cost of living was to increase agricultural

production. They were developing manufacturing industries more rapidly than agricultural production. He urged bringing in American labor to assist Ontario farmers this summer. He also emphasized the importance of more active measures to secure settlement of New Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson thanked Mr. Munro for his "valuable suggestions," and added that the Government was now trying to attract settlers to the North country.

Mr. Hartley Dewart said the question of food supply was very important at the present time, and he sometimes thought that instead of employing such an expensive Commission to deal with liquor licenses when there were no licenses, the Government might appoint the Chairman of that Commission a special Commissioner to investigate the question of food supply. He had noticed the members of the License Commission sitting in the gallery of the Legislature day after day, and if they had nothing better to do with their time he thought they might be better occupied investigating a matter that was of great importance to the public in these high-cost-of-living days.

Hon. Mr. Lucas Angry.

This suggestion drew an angry reply from Hon. I. B. Lucas, who accused Mr. Dewart of making "an offensive attack on Mr. Flavelle, Chairman of the License Board." The member for Southwest Toronto evidently is prepared to do anything in an emergency, said the Attorney-General. It was "a gratuitous insult" to Mr. Flavelle. "It's the action of a demagogue in this country," and "he is endeavoring to take advantage of public opinion and make political capital," quoth Mr. Lucas. "He always doubted Mr. Dewart's sincerity," he said.

"I don't know why the Attorney-General should get into such a passion," commented Mr. William Proudfoot, who followed. "Evidently he not have his ear to the ground this afternoon for a time, but when the member for S. W. Toronto got after him, he began to sit up and take notice." The sole reason why the Government refused to prosecute combines, declared the member for Centre Huron, was because their own political friends were involved.

Mr. Johnson (West Hastings) interrupted to ask if the Liberals knew of any combines.

"Yes," said Mr. Proudfoot, "the one of which Mr. Kemp is the head. That's one."

Faddists Control Schools.

When the House was dealing with the supplementary estimates Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) was heard at his best in the lighter vein. He cited many instances from the curriculum to show "that education had fallen into the hands of faddists." The first case quoted by Mr. McDonald was, "Draw and paint a box of onions." "How does that look, or rather how does it smell?" was the comment of the member for North Bruce, and then he advised: "Teach them to grow onions instead of drawing them." Another choice specimen which made the members of the House rock with laughter was: "Draw a picture of the noisy geese that babbles o'er the pool." "He is a goose who put that on the paper," declared the member for Bruce. "Draw a picture of the Attorney-General with his ear to the ground, and that would be more true to life," he added. Then turning to Dr. Pyne, Mr. McDonald asked: "Why don't you clip the wings of these jackasses who put these things on the paper?"

Mr. Sam Carter—You mean their ears. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. McDonald—Yes, their ears. The member for North Bruce strongly contended that art should not be made a plucking subject.

Mr. Sam Carter protested against \$600,000 being given to the Toronto University and only \$50,000 for technical education, which affected 90 per cent. of the people.

Hon. Dr. Pyne stated that about \$200,000 was given to technical education, and Mr. Carter replied that this did not tally with the figure that Hon. Howard Ferguson had given at another time.

Discuss Racetracks.

A short discussion on racetracks took place in the Legislature yesterday in connection with a motion by