

go to a commission man before he could get his money. Nine-tenths of the cattle sold in Toronto did not go to Buffalo or Montreal, but were bought by the large companies — Davies, Blackwell and Gunns. The packers had an association, too.

"If a butcher buys he had to buy the best meat, and he had to pay the price asked by the packer. When the butcher gets it he does not get the heart, the livers, the calves' livers or the sweetbreads. The result of this live stock association combine and the packers' combine affects the sale to the butcher, and what the farmer has sold for 12 cents on the hoof costs the butcher, when he buys, 23 cents a pound for the parts he gets," declared the speaker. The packer not only got their profits that way, but from offal, etc.

"It affects the people not only in this city, but throughout the Province," proceeded Mr. Dewart. "It is no wonder that we have to contend with the high cost of living. It is no wonder that the commission man and the packers are waxing fat." These were reasons why an inquiry should be made and the Government should consider, he said, whether the packing houses could not be taken over in the interests of the people.

Attacks License Board.

The License Board was the next arrow to Mr. Dewart's bow which he shot. He dealt with it at the first having particular regard to the employment and activities of private detectives. Some days ago Mr. McGarry answered several questions asked by the member for Southwest Toronto agent the Wm. J. Burns Detective Agency. At that time he was told that a license was granted

the agency on May 12, 1918, and issued on September 3, 1918. He went on to prove at length, by citing several cases in which the representatives of the agency had taken part, that the license should never have been granted by the Province. First, he directed the attention of the House to the Mitchell and Willard N. Jones case, and the Oregon Land Fraud cases of a few years ago. Passing on, he told of the case of the Toronto man, Alex. P. Macaulay, who figured in a case at St. Louis two years ago, and was finally acquitted. The Burns Agency was responsible for pressing that case, when "Christmas Keough" was the man wanted, he said, and J. P. Morgan & Co. and the Bankers' Association had sometimes used them.

These cases and the methods used by the agency had been brought to the attention of the Provincial Treasurer, and the license should never have been issued. Notwithstanding he found in the public accounts for 1917-18 that W. J. Burns had been paid for services and expenses of operatives, \$807.36. He wanted to know what service had been rendered. "I ask the gentlemen of this House if they think it is fair and right that an agency with the reputation of this agency, an agency that cannot be entrusted with fair dealings—that the business of enforcing the Ontario Temperance Act should be entrusted to hired thugs?"

The Homer Case.

The Homer case came next on Mr. Dewart's list. He said it had been in charge of two very intelligent sleuths, one of whom was Charles Clyde, whom he quoted as having said when the matter was first discussed, that he "was employed by the department to see that the O. T. A. is not violated."

Hon. Mr. Lucas interrupted to ask if the speaker inferred there had been evidence that a check for \$3,200 tendered in payment for the liquor had been cashed, or if he were trying to "humbug" the public.

"No, I don't want to humbug the public."

"If my honorable friend will make that statement I will give him a Commission of Inquiry at once," declared Mr. Lucas, hotly.

"I am afraid it is hurting," retorted Mr. Dewart.

"Probably my honorable friend, having knowledge where the check came from, may be able to give me information as to when and how it was cashed," shot back Mr. Lucas.

The \$3,200 Cheque.

Continuing, Mr. Dewart quoted from The Toronto World of February 22 an interview with Lorne W. Smith, one of those who was convicted, that the cheque of \$2,200 was a marked one, and that it had been cashed.

The statement that White was employed in the License Department was a misstatement, Mr. Dewart declared. It was not necessary to trick men into buying liquor. Inspector Ayearst had denied that the \$3,200 belonged to the Government. If it did not belong to the Government, he wanted to know whose cheque it was. "Is there any plausible reason why a man named White, who has nothing to do with the Government, would give a marked cheque for \$3,200 worth of liquor that the Government was going to seize?"

Why, of all places, he asked, was Homer, in the riding of St. Catharines, chosen as the place to ship the liquor on February 11, when a by-election was to be held on February 15? "Why this particular location? That is something we will discover if we have an inquiry that we should have?"

Eighty cases were ordered for delivery at Homer; 75 were delivered and five were missing, a \$200 cheque being given back to the seller by the purchaser for the amount not delivered. "I submit that so far as these matters are concerned there is no reason why they should be put in the hands of detective agencies," declared Mr. Dewart.

Ayearst had been reported as saying that the White Detective Agency was the department, whereas he knew it was the Employers' Detective Agency, which had been employed by the board for years. These detective agencies were incorporated under Dominion statutes, and there was no way of knowing who were the shareholders of it. However, from the classified section of the 1919 directory the officials of the company were given as W. N. Simpson as President, H. W. Wright as Vice-President, and M. E. White. The Public Accounts of the last five years showed that M. E. White and W. N. Simpson had received sums of money from the Government. Over \$14,000 was in the Public Accounts of last year ending October 31, and a total of \$44,764.73 had been paid to them in the last five years.

Accounts Padded?

Further, he wanted to know what guarantee there was that the accounts had not been padded, when the employees were not responsible to the Government. He ventured the opinion that if an investigation were held it would be found there were various charges which ought to be under the direct control of the department itself.

"Is it any wonder that any self-respecting, decent Inspector should resign instead of working with these private sleuths?" asked Mr. Dewart.

"It would be interesting to know what the position of Mr. Ayearst is in these matters. His explanation of these matters has been far from satisfactory. If Mr. Ayearst is put in the witness box he would have to admit that he himself has profited by the earnings of private detectives at a time they were in his employ. He would have to admit that he has had on the payrolls of the Government private detectives who were in the service of private detective agencies and who divided with him monies they received for their services in a private detective agency, which he deposited in a special account to his own credit. He would have to admit that for some time he was receiving a share of the monies these men received from the private agencies. An investigation of these accounts over the five years will force from Mr. Ayearst a statement that he was sharing the money they so received." In view of this close connection he wondered if there might not be some reason for him selecting that agency.

The Homer case was not the only one in which there were wholesale transactions, he argued. He proceeded to give an instance. There was a shipment of liquor that came from Montreal to Toronto early in December. It consisted of 61 tins of high wines, and a considerable quantity of bottled brandy and other liquor. The liquor was seized by officials of the department, and his information was that an agent of the department, who agreed to deliver the liquor at the house of