

ed with the fact that they put candidates against Farmers.

"I see the member for East Kent laughs; he can get what amusement he likes from that observation."

Scores Enumerator System.

Mr. Dewart then went into the evils of the enumerator system, and pointed out that in Toronto 25,900 would have been disfranchised if appeals had not been made. The cost to the Province would be at least \$1,250,000. He was glad to see that what the Liberals had fought for in this respect was being adopted by the Government, and the Liberals would have given them their best assistance.

Mr. Dewart, speaking of patronage, said that evidently the press was more inaccurate than ever in its reports on these matters. Continuing, he remarked: "If the Government, when it gets in deep water, has The Globe and The Star around it it will find it may have two millstones."

The Liberal Leader regretted that there was nothing about the eight-hour day in the Speech from the Throne. He said that the Liberals did not propose to let the matter go by, as Liberalism could look after Labor as well as the farmer.

The Liberal party, he said, would have seriously considered retaining the man, who, as Minister of Education, had the only aim of service. He regretted that the Government had not realized its opportunity by getting his services. He also noted the absence of anything in the Speech from the Throne about the referendum and recall system, although it was in the U. F. O. platform.

"That's Co-operation."

Regarding patronage, Mr. Dewart referred to the appointment of W. D. Gregory as counsel on the Waterways Commission. He thought he had some work in Halton about by-election time.

"That's 'co-operation,'" interjected Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Dewart then referred to the late member for East Middlesex (J. C. Elliott). He was a bit curious to know about that, too.

He thought that a Ministry of Health was more important than a separate Ministry of Mines. He was surprised that the resignation of the Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests had not been demanded in view of the Kapuskasing affair.

Ferguson Taunts Dewart.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson referred to his sixteen years as a member of the Legislature, and said that he had never listened to a speech before of the same character as that of the Liberal Leader. "His wall of bitterness and disappointment will surely appeal to the Premier that he is in dire straits. What he expected didn't occur. The Leader of the Opposition from the very election has made attempts to get the support of the U. F. O. He even wrote the Premier, as he says, offering his assistance. I congratulate him on the pathos of his appeal and it will, no doubt, touch a man so tender as the Prime Minister. He has never ceased to throw poisoned arrows at the U. F. O. movement. He even undertook to dictate to the Lieutenant-Governor what his duty was and to make himself constitutional member for Ontario. I know the Liberal Leader is a great constitutional lawyer, but we have him in the unenviable position of having attempted to dictate to the representative of the Crown his choice as Premier and practically nominating himself as 'I am the boy,' and to-day he pours out his pent-up spleen."

Mr. Ferguson referred to Premier Drury and Mr. Dewart speaking together in the past from the same political platform. The Premier has seen that that was not the way to power, "but the other fellow hasn't seen the light yet."

Good Words for Protection.

Mr. Ferguson took occasion to get in a few boosts for protection and the "good old Tory party." He revived the "thin edge of the wedge" argument used in the campaign of 1911 and added to the "terrible dangers of annexation" by the Republic to the south the later peril of the manner in which Canadian money is being treated. He criticized Mr. Dewart for his side on conscription, declaring that when the men were calling for

help Mr. Dewart took the attitude, "Wait a year or two and we'll take a vote on it." Mr. Ferguson criticized the Liberal party vigorously. It had been against Hydro, he said. "The Liberals combated every movement for Hydro. But they are now in the procession, and The Globe, the Liberal Leader's Press agency, is now one of the greatest advocates of Hydro. The Globe always gives Mr. Dewart plenty of publicity, but not always in the form he desires, perhaps."

Mr. Ferguson said that Mr. Dewart had stated that the Liberal party was still dominant, but yet he had come back to the House with fewer followers than he had before.

"When he went up to East Kent girded in all his armor he found that the Minister of Agriculture had so entrenched himself with Liberal followers that he (Mr. Dewart) wasn't recognized at all. So he had to pack up his little grip and get away. By actual count, I believe there were 66 at the meeting, and when it came to deciding about an election only 32 agreed with him, and yet the Liberal party is dominant."

Points to Cody's Record.

Mr. Ferguson called upon Premier Drury to live up to the high ideals of his able predecessors. He also asked the present Minister of Education to follow Hon. Dr. Cody's ways. He contended that the Conservatives had got more of the popular vote than any other party in the last election. The Conservatives got 391,278 votes; the Liberals 333,550; the U. F. O. 258,990 and Labor, 131,394, according to figures quoted by Mr. Ferguson.

He was amazed at the meagre legislation predicted in the Speech from the Throne. He pointed out that it contained nothing about the great housing scheme. "Is it ominous?" he asked. "Is the housing scheme to be abandoned?" There was not a word about the Workmen's Compensation Act, nor the eight-hour day. Regarding the latter, he said that the Hearst Government had

asked Ottawa about it, and would have put through any legislation necessary to implement it. He promised that the member for West Ottawa (Mr. Hill) would introduce a bill along the lines of the referendum and recall system.

He Defends Patronage.

Regarding patronage, Mr. Ferguson declared himself as follows: "I am a firm believer in a fair, proper patronage by men who are conducting the affairs of the Province properly. I do not believe in the spoils system by the prostitution of public business for party purposes. But the Ministers must have some say in the selection of men who surround them in their work. Any other selection is giving Ministers an opportunity to dodge responsibility. If a bill is introduced to institute what is known as a Civil Service Commission, where appointment will be made regardless of what the Minister thinks, I propose to oppose it strenuously. There should be some restrictions."

Mr. Ferguson professed great alarm about the Hydro not being mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. "Is it any indication of the attitude of the Government toward this great project?" he asked. He pointed out its great value to the farmers as well as to the other people of the Province. He hoped that the Ontario press would insist that nothing be overlooked in this great public enterprise.

Praise for Biggs.

Mr. Ferguson saw difficulties in the separation of the Mines from the Forests and Lands Department. He congratulated the Minister of Public Works on his good roads program. "My only fear is that he may have overshot the mark," said the Conservative Leader, who thought that some would have to explain to their constituents after having opposed the Hamilton-Toronto highway as a "boulevard for joy-riders." Now the Province was to have 1,800 miles of Provincial highways instead of 400.

He had fear, too, of the Premier giving voice to doctrine that would shake the foundations of Canadian industry. He wound up with an eloquent description of Ontario's major part in the war.

Premier Drury moved the adjournment of the debate.