

that the Government was not responsible for questions. But the members had the right to ask questions, and it was the duty of the Government to reply. The House, he said, would assert its rights for a full and free discussion of its affairs.

Despite the protest from Hon. Mr. Ferguson that consideration of the act to regulate the purchase of milk and cream should be deferred because of the absence of Hon. George S. Henry, Hon. Manning Doherty pressed for its second reading. "The Minister can press his second reading," declared Hon. Mr. Ferguson, "but it is against all custom and procedure of the Legislature since I have known anything about it." Mr. Ferguson said that the Minister had no right to use the second reading of a bill to make a personal attack upon another member.

#### To Appoint Inspectors.

The Minister of Agriculture went into the general situation under which shippers of cream send their product to the creameries and, at the end of two weeks or so receive a statement of the amount of cream percentage. For years, he pointed out, the producers had been compelled to accept the creamery's estimate as correct. The act provided machinery to appoint inspectors to take samples of milk or cream bought on a butter-fat basis, to make tests checking up the commercial tests and eventually to communicate with the producer in order to compare the two calculations.

The Minister gave instances of ~~comprehensive tests, running up to~~

242 in one instance, which seemed to establish a general discrepancy of three per cent. in the tests given. On that basis, he calculated the loss per annum to the milk and cream producers at from \$150,000 to \$200,000 in Ontario. "The bill," he said "has the support of most of the large creameries in the Province." He told the House of a conversation with the principal of one of the largest creameries in the Province in which the creamery man had told him that his concern had endeavored to ascertain whether a certain buying agent was dealing fairly with the farmers in his payments to them. They were never able, the Minister was informed, to look at the buying agent's books.

Dr. Stevenson of London wanted a section introduced which would compel the creameries to pay the same price at all stations, but the Minister said he feared it involved legal difficulties.

#### Advocates T. & N. O. Extension.

From the economic standpoint alone, declared Mr. R. R. Hall, Parry Sound in introducing his motion favoring the extension of the T. & N. O. from North Bay to Parry Sound, the venture would be justified. If the railway were brought down to Georgian Bay somewhere near Parry Sound it would benefit not only the Province of Ontario, but the whole of the Dominion of Canada. In that district, locked in for want of railroad transportation, he said, were enormous supplies of oak, maple, basswood, birch and cedar. Railway accommodation such as he suggested would give access to nearly ten hundred million feet of timber.

"Think of it, gentlemen," he declared, "there are men and women forty years of age in our Province of Ontario who have never seen a railway. This railway is a 'dead horse' at the present time, and if the Government supports this motion and we get this road built the Government will practically have worked a miracle. It will have put life into a 'dead horse.'"

Hon. Mr. Raney moved the adjournment of the debate on the motion.

When Attorney-General Raney introduced his bill abolishing appeals to his Majesty in his Privy Council, Hon. Mr. Ferguson asked if the bill wiped out all appeals.

"Yes," replied the Attorney-General, "nearly all appeals from Ontario. It repeals the present act, and also abrogates the prerogative, leaving the only course of litigation by way of appeal from the judgment of the Appellate Division to the Supreme Court at Ottawa."

Mr. Ferguson — Constitutional questions?

Mr. Raney — Everything.

#### Gives Election Costs.

Hon. R. H. Grant, in reply to ques-

tions, said the number contributing to the Government Teachers' Superannuation Fund was as follows: Public school teachers, 16,601; high school teachers, 1,217; public and high school inspectors, 101. Amounts paid in: Public school teachers, \$469,022; high school teachers, \$90,611; inspectors, \$14,538. The amount standing to the credit of the fund was \$610,959.

The following sums have been advanced to the Ministers of the Crown since November 13: Premier, \$200; Minister of Public Works, \$800; Minister of Mines, \$800; Minister of Education, \$500; Minister of Lands and Forests, \$1,000; Provincial Secretary, \$500; Provincial Treasurer, \$500.

The estimated cost of the last general election is one million dollars, according to Hon. W. E. Raney, replying to questions about costs. The amount actually paid was over \$760,000. Of this \$283,000 was for enumerators and \$190,000 for printing lists, etc.

Hon. R. H. Grant assured Col. Price (Parkdale) that the Government would look into the allegation that a member of the staff of the University of Toronto had made a remark to the effect that "there are pacifists in the I.O.D.E., and they sent their sons across the border. Three-quarters of the members of the Veterans' Associations are British, and where objections were made at veterans' meetings it was a drunken British element that was responsible." The Government was not aware that such remarks had been made. Action would depend upon the circumstances, said the Minister.

The Government was not considering the opening up of any more liquor dispensaries at central points in Ontario, said Hon. H. C. Nixon, in reply to a member's question.

## RAILWAYS' DEPUTATION WANTS INVESTIGATION

### MIGHT BRING PERMISSION TO RAISE FARES

That a Provincial-wide investigation be made into the financial condition of electric railways, was the request yesterday of a deputation from the Canadian Electric Railways' Association before the Ontario Railway Board. They want the investigation with a view to being allowed to increase fares. The deputation recently saw Premier Drury and the Government.

J. E. Eastman, Secretary of the association, urged that the board be given greater scope, so that it could make inquiries and recommendations on railway fares, even where fare-restricting agreements are in force with municipalities.

Sir John Gibson supported the request, and intimated that the board might have to take over a lot of railways which were operating at a loss unless some relief was afforded.

Chairman D. M. McIntyre informed the deputation that the Attorney-General's letter contained no instruction to institute any inquiry. In the letter sent by the Attorney-General to the board forwarding the companies' memorial a definite stipulation was made that he was "not unfavorable" to such an inquiry being made, but not where any agreements existed between the companies and the municipalities.