

Government indulged in bringing in its referendum bill through a private member.

After quoting eminent constitutional authorities as to a Government's responsibilities in this connection, he declared: "There never has been, Mr. Speaker, such an evasion of responsibility in the most trying days of any Government; even in the dying days of the Ross Government, they did not attempt to shirk their responsibility by throwing it on the private members. No Government in Canada ever introduced a measure which could not command the support of a large section of its own followers. No Government before has ever adopted subterfuge such as this in order to shirk responsibility of their act."

Mr. Hill was disposed to criticize the expenditure of "a million and a half" on the taking of a referendum at this period in the affairs of the Province, and was interrupted by Hon. Mr. Raney, who asked him for his authority.

Calls It Inaccurate.

"I am reading from the Dominion Alliance statement," replied Mr. Hill, and the House laughed.

Mr. Raney characterized the estimate as wholly inaccurate, and when asked for his own estimate on the cost, said: "I estimate the cost will be perhaps in the neighborhood of \$200,000."

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—That does not include the cost to the various parties interested?

Hon. Mr. Raney—Why, the people will pay their own costs.

"Why did not the Government," Mr. Hill asked, "bring in legislation abolishing the sale of native wines in the Province and thus ensuring the applicability of Bill 26?" Asked by Hon. Manning Doherty if he would support such legislation, Mr. Hill tersely answered, "I would. Would you?"

Mr. Hill, after declaring that he accepted full responsibility for his stand on the McCreary resolution, introduced his resolution.

Mr. Karl Homuth, South Waterloo, declared that conditions under the old Ontario Temperance Act had been most lamentable. If, as had been claimed, men had been forced from liquor to drugs it was a condition of affairs which the Government must immediately take steps to remedy. He was for a system of rationing of liquor to men who declared their desire for it, with which system in effect he would "hang every bootlegger from the nearest lamp post." With Mr. J. W. Curry he was totally opposed to a system which levied upon a man found with a bottle a fine of \$200 and let the bootlegger escape with a penalty very little more severe.

PROVINCE HAS 95 AUTOS IN USE

Six of Them, Public Accounts Committee Told, for Ser- vice of All Departments

There were 95 motor cars and 41 motor trucks in the service of the Ontario Government, Mr. R. P. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister of Public Works, told the Public Accounts Committee yesterday.

There were six cars, he said, for the general use of all the departments of the Government. There was no special car for any Minister, he said.

"Is it so that cars were at the back and call of private members under the former Government?" Mr. Fairbairn was asked.

"The order to use a car must come through the Minister or Deputy Minister of Public Works," said Mr. Fairbairn.

BIG ELECTORAL QUESTION TO GO TO COMMITTEE

Proportional Representation to be Given Serious Consideration

THE PREMIER APPROVES

Thinks There Are Strong Arguments in Favor of Its Adoption

Premier Drury yesterday promised in the Legislature that a committee would be chosen to investigate and report on a system of proportional representation for Ontario. The request was made by H. P. Hill (West Ottawa), who has a bill in the Legislature proposing this reform. The committee will probably take up the matter between the present session and the next one.

Mr. Hill spoke explaining the working of proportional representation, and argued it as a necessary reform in Ontario. He told intimately of its success in other countries.

Mr. Hill was confident that the people were favorable to proportional representation, because it had become a plank in the platforms of the Liberal, Farmer and Labor parties. He had been an advocate of the system for years. "I regret that my own party has not seen fit to take it up in its platform," he continued, "but the great Conservative party moves slowly in matters of this kind. I hope it will see fit to make it a part of its policy."

Majority Against Him.

Mr. Hill quoted Burke's remark that Parliament is "the express image of the people." He traced the course of Parliamentary reform through British and Canadian history. The franchise had been gradually extended until now in Ontario every man and woman over 21 had the right of the ballot. But the Province had never got away from the single-member riding. Minorities were deprived of their rights, and sometimes even majorities, under the present system, were not represented.

As an illustration he took his own case, where there were four candidates in the field. Two-thirds of the vote, he said, was against him, yet he represented West Ottawa in the Legislature. He quoted instances from Canadian history where whole Provinces had elected all members from one party, although there were tremendous votes for the other parties. False majorities in a Legislature resulted, he said, in a Ministry out of touch with the people.

Has Succeeded Elsewhere.

He then referred to the John Hare system of voting, with its big constituencies and big ballot, on which the people marked their preference among the candidates by numbering them first and second choice, and so forth. He thought it was just as easy to mark a ballot that way as it was to mark the present ones. It eliminated the split vote, he said. It was not a fad, a mere theory or a "new-fangled notion." Mr. Hill showed the success of it in various other countries and gave testimony after testimony from various parts of the world in favor