

of it. He doubted if it could be worked in North Ontario, but he was sure of it in older Ontario. He showed that Tasmania was less densely populated than many parts of Ontario, and it worked out splendidly there.

In conclusion, he asked that the Government appoint a committee to investigate and report on its application to Ontario. He wanted a committee with the power to call witnesses.

Premier Favors It.

Premier Drury said that the argument for it under certain conditions seemed almost unassailable. The adoption of proportional representation, he said, would mean a Legislature of groups. Such a group system meant that the House itself must take more responsibility for legislation, which was a wholesome tendency. He would be pleased to grant the committee.

The Liberals had declared in favor of proportional representation, said Mr. Dewart, Liberal Leader. He thought it a good time to prepare, as the best time for its application would be at the time of the Dominion census, which would be taken shortly. Mr. Dewart brought up the question of city representation. Cities, he said, were entitled to more members than they had now.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson said he had not given proportional representation sufficient study to be able to pass judgment on it. He also took up the matter of urban representation, declaring that by representation by population Toronto would be entitled to 25 or more members. He argued that representation by population must be carried into the proportional representation scheme.

DO NOT KNOW WHAT OCCURS IN COMMITTEE

Labor Members Puzzled Over Vanished Clause in Police Commissions Act

OPINIONS ARE DIFFERENT

Municipal Committee of the House Not Unanimous Regarding Prior Sitting

Labor members of the Municipal Committee of the Legislature, judging by what they were saying yesterday after the committee had concluded its sessions for the day, felt that, somehow, something had been put over them.

At the prior meeting of the committee a bill was under consideration, introduced by Mr. T. Tooms of Peterboro', to make Police Commissioners elective. Opposition to this arising in committee, the supporters of the bill say they decided to accept, as a compromise, that the Commission should consist of the Mayor, an Alderman and the Magistrate.

The bill came up again yesterday and the clerk of the committee read a draft of a clause placing the estimates of Police Commissions under the control of the City Council. The clerk said that he understood that was what the committee wished done.

Undecided as to What Happens.

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Chairman of the committee, had to leave, and his place was taken by Edgar Watson (North Victoria). A most animated discussion arose as to what really happened at the prior meeting. One portion of the committee held that the clauses relating to the change of personnel in Police Commissions had been defeated. Another portion held that it had not been defeated, but that a redraft was to be brought in, as well as the redraft actually presented.

Somebody called for the minutes, but the minutes were not there, and apparently could not be produced on such short notice. Finally, after much objecting and cross-questioning, the committee voted in favor of the clause presented and adjourned.

After the meeting some of the Labor members said that they were certain that the clause changing personnel had not been defeated, and they promise to do some interesting speaking the next time the bill comes before the committee, if it comes at all, which some doubt.

At any rate the fight will be transferred to the floor of the House, and Labor men, from what they said yesterday, will make a determined effort to get it through in its original form.