

ture is charged by the Constitution of Canada with the responsibility for the administration of justice within the Province. This Legislature is not amenable to the courts. The courts are amenable to the Legislature. The Attorney-General is specially charged with responsibility for the administration of justice and is responsible to the Government and the Legislature." The Attorney-General, he said, under such duty, must reprove those who misconducted themselves in the carrying out of justice. "And that is what happened in this case. The Attorney-General called the attention of the Board of Commerce to the impropriety of its conduct and sent a copy to the Acting Premier of Canada."

The question of combines, said the Attorney-General, was a world-wide one. The United States had been grappling with it for more than a generation, and of late years successfully. Great Britain was awakening to the need of drastic action. He referred to the anti-Sherman trust law in the United States, and the judgment in the courts there that agreement between manufacturer and wholesaler by which the wholesaler agreed to fix the retail price was illegal.

Mageau Censures Ferguson.

Z. Mageau, Liberal member for Sturgeon Falls, launched vigorous criticism of the administration by Hon. G. Howard Ferguson of the timber limits along the Sturgeon River. He alleged they had been handed out on most favorable terms to Conservative bidders, whereas Liberal bidders were required to furnish unreasonable cash deposits. He challenged the Conservative members to refute his allegations of maladministration, and said he did not wonder that an investigation had ultimately been found necessary.

SPEEDY ACTION ON REFERENDUM

Next Step in Ontario Legislation Will be the Sandy Bill

There will be no delay in forwarding to Ottawa the request for a vote on the importation of liquor. Possibly the earliest date such a vote could be taken now would be in July.

The passing of the McCreary resolution by such a large majority has cleared up the atmosphere to some extent. The next step in Ontario temperance legislation is the Sandy bill stopping the "short-circuiting" of liquor. This, with the McCreary resolution, and its effect of a vote of the people asking that importation be stopped, would make Ontario "bone dry," it is thought. Another step taken by the Government is the promise of the Premier for a Commission or a committee to investigate and report on the Ontario Temperance Act.

The Sandy Bill may be reached this week, but there is no telling exactly when it will come up. Undoubtedly to the people the temperance question is the most important measure to be taken up in the Legislature. There was a noticeable falling off yesterday of attendance in the galleries, although the debate on the Budget had been promised.

It is quite possible that the present lists would be used in the event of a vote before August. The form of ballot is settled by the Dominion authorities, and that is its responsibility.

'SPUD' OCCUPIES CHIEF POSITION IN LONG DEBATE

But It is Still Its Own Master
in This Province

THE FARMERS SOLD EARLY

Member Says "Middleman"
is to Blame for
Prices

If the homely potato had ears instead of eyes it would have swelled out of all shape at the thought of its importance in the Ontario House of Parliament yesterday. For one hour the "spud" and a thousand other subjects, great and small, but in various ways related to it, occupied the attention of the House. And, all this discussion notwithstanding, the "spud" is still worth the same price and there are no more in a bag.

Among the numerous other questions dragged into the debate were the ancient one of the "hired man," another standby, the "law of production and demand," and that other rascal who grows more impudent every day—"the H. C. of L." As a matter of fact, it was the last subject which projected the potato so prominently to the front. It developed that, so far as the Province is concerned, the "spud" is his own master, and there is no law or regulation which can bring him down from his high perch except that doubtful agency, production.

Enter the Middleman.

However, the House secured views from all angles. J. MacNamara, soldier member for Riverdale, started by reading from papers the price of potatoes—\$5.50 a bag—and asked that a protest go to Ottawa. Then M. M. MacBride told of \$7 and \$8 a bag being asked on the Brantford market, and of the "angry wives of Brantford" starting a boycott. As might be expected, about that stage of the proceedings J. M. Webster, the Farmer member for West Lambton, got in a word for the agriculturists. In his county farmers had sold their potatoes last fall for \$2.25 a bag, instead of holding them. The man who bought from the farmer was the man who put up the prices, he said, thereby getting another well-known person into the debate, namely, the "middleman."

Then there are farmers who did not sell their potatoes last fall, and J. C. Brown, North Middlesex, maintained that the farmer had a right to the price when the market was that way. Incidentally, he saw no sense in the boycott.

Shipped Across Border.

Capt. Ramsden (Southwest Toronto) got in a word for the city people. There were cars of potatoes in the yards of Toronto en route to the United States, he said, although there were enough people here to buy them all.

Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, entered the debate then. There was a very live demand from the United States for potatoes, he said; buyers from there were offering \$5.50 a bag. In Ontario 75 per cent. of the crop had been out of the hands of the farmers before Christmas. It was beyond the jurisdiction of the Province to stop export to the United States. He advocated co-operation between labor men and the farmers, and the best way was to get overalls on and go to the work of production. Chas.