

J. J. MORRISON IS SURPRISED AT CRITICISM

Says U.F.O. Executive Was
Responsible for Letters
He Wrote

TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE

Thinks They Must be Taught
Necessity of Voicing
Opinions

Mr. J. J. Morrison, Secretary of the U.F.O., who returned to the city yesterday morning from Chicago, was probably the most surprised man in Toronto when he learned of the furor his letters had created in Legislative circles during his absence.

"Our object in sending out a circular letter to the various clubs through the Province was to establish the personal responsibility of the individual elector," declared Mr. Morrison, in a statement to The Globe yesterday.

"This is not a new proceeding with us. We are doing it all the time, because we want to keep the people informed in regard to what is going on, and to develop a sense of responsibility on the part of the electors. We also want the members to consult the people. Those were planks in our platform, and we are simply putting into practise what we preached in the formative years.

Executive Was Responsible.

"I am accused of being a boss and a dictator, but I did not send out those letters on my own initiative or responsibility, but by direction of the Executive. The Executive was in absolute accord in taking action. It is true I am a member of it, but all were consulted and I am merely the mouthpiece."

Continuing, Mr. Morrison said: "They ask, Who is boss? I'll answer that. The people are, and they must rule. They are the last court of appeal. We may have to educate them to the necessity of giving expression to their opinions, but in our great system of democracy no Government can go very far wrong that keeps in close touch with the common people."

Did Not Write Hall.

Referring to the charge made by Mr. Hall, M.P.P., of Parry Sound, that he had received a letter from the Secretary of the U.F.O., Mr. Morrison said: "I never wrote him in my life. He received no communication of any kind from this office."

In concluding, the Secretary stated that "the weakness of the old system, where members were elected for four years, and being given an absolutely free hand did very much as they liked. They failed to keep in touch with the electors, and as a result much of a harmful nature was crystallized into legislation—all of which would have been avoided had the members kept in close and constant touch with the electors."

Merely Expressed Opinion.

Mr. Morrison pointed out that during the regime of the Patrons of Industry such letters were constantly sent out to the farmers at home. He handed the letters that have caused the trouble to The Globe's representative, and drew his attention to the fact that, while the situation had been clearly stated, and the Executive's opinion of that situation, the recipient of the letter was not asked to take any action, one way or another, about the matter.

"Party organs daily print their views of legislation that is coming up; why should not we do the same

thing?" he asked. Mr. Morrison stated that when the Executive felt that any legislation was wrong, as this certainly was, the Executive would take similar action.

"We want representative Government, and not Government by proxy," he declared. The U. F. O. had gone into politics to establish the personal responsibility of the electors and to secure real responsible Government, and it had not forsaken its pre-election aims.

Premier Not in Favor of Move for Recall

Reading from a newspaper article to the effect that four U.F.O. members admitted having signed the recall, Hon. George S. Henry asked Premier Drury in the Legislature yesterday if, in view of what he considered a unique and serious situation, he had under consideration any amendments to the Election Act which would "provide against interference with the free will and action of the members of this House." The Premier's answer was a terse "No."

J. M. Webster, U.F.O. member for East Lambton, who was named among the four, declared that when he was asked in the House corridors if he had signed the recall he had not known it was a reporter who had addressed the question to him. "I did not know he was a reporter," Mr. Webster declared, "and I want to tell him if he is in the gallery now that I consider it was none of his business."

J. W. Widdifield, North Ontario, another of those named in the article, stated frankly that he knew it was a reporter to whom he was speaking, and he had told him, because he was not ashamed of having signed the U.F.O. recall.