

sion Act administration. If the board had been unable in three weeks to get that information he thought there must be something wrong.

"A little more activity on the board should be shown," he said, "and would be greatly appreciated." He it was who called the attention of the House to Rev. Peter Bryce's acceptance of the chairmanship of the Referendum Committee. He thought Rev. Mr. Bryce should be requested to devote all his energies to looking after the administration of the act.

#### Defense for Board.

K. K. Homuth, Labor, South Waterloo, said that he had been able by personal attendance on board members in Toronto to get needy applications through promptly. He suggested to the members that it might be better were they to take their complaints directly to the Chairman rather than attack the administration on the floor of the House. It took some time, he said, to inquire into and pass on applications from all over the Province.

R. R. Hall—But what are these widows and children to do in the meantime?

Mr. Homuth—What did they do before the act was passed?

Mr. Hall—They lived on charity, and it is a shame to have to say it.

#### Sees Something Wrong.

H. H. Dewart objected to a state of affairs where it was possible for a member to go to the board, as Mr. Homuth said he had done, and use his personal influence to have certain applications passed. The numerous complaints, he thought, showed clearly that there was something wrong with Pensions Act administration.

Hon. Walter Rollo vigorously defended the board members, who, he said, on frequent occasions took work home with them in order to keep up with routine. Although he personally was in favor of pensions being made retroactive to the date the application was passed on by the local board, he said the board had the say of what was actually to be the case. The number of applications for pensions up to February, he said, was 3,088, whereas the number that would be paid for February would be 1,245. "Give the board a little time," he said, "and the act will be working smoothly."

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, concluding the debate, strongly urged the necessity of making all the delayed payments retroactive to the date of approval by the local board. If the widows throughout the Province could be told that such was to be the case they could secure the necessities of life on credit with the knowledge that their cheques would be forthcoming. The Conservative Leader secured from Premier Drury the statement that Commissioner Reynolds is a brother of Professor Reynolds of Guelph O. A. C.

---

## Ferguson "Admits"

### Monopoly of Brains

Before the Orders of the Day were called in the Legislature yesterday, Attorney-General Raney arose to ask Hon. G. H. Ferguson if he were correctly reported by The Globe at the banquet given to him by Toronto Conservatives in saying that all the brains and debating ability of the Legislature were contained in the Conservative party.

Very forcibly the Leader of the Conservative party declared that he was correctly reported. Furthermore, he said, he was correctly reported when he said that the Conservatives were defeated in 1919 by an epidemic of hysteria which passed over the Province. Evidences of that epidemic, he said, were still visible on Government benches.

---