

IS NO SECESSIONIST; MERELY PERSUADER, SAYS PETER HEENAN

Labor Member Gives Thanks for Considerations and Asks for More

FREEBORN LAUDS POLICY

With opening formalities successfully disposed of, the Ontario Legislature swung into action at Queen's Park yesterday—not too strenuously, for the first day, but just got nicely under way.

There was even a little cross-floor sniping to enliven what is usually a dull day—that upon which the reply to the Address is moved and seconded. Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, started both skirmishes, scoring upon the Attorney-General in one, and faring not quite so well in another with the Premier.

Hon. W. E. Raney had interrupted Peter Heenan, the Labor member for Kenora, in his address, to bring out some point favorable to the Government in connection with the Backus deal. "Evidently," said Hon. Mr. Ferguson, from his seat, amid laughter, "the Attorney-General is closer to Mr. Backus than is the member for Kenora." Then the Conservative Leader, upholding the rights of private members, asked for "serious consideration" of the Premier's move to place Government business on the order paper for each Monday. It was a usurpation of rights, and improper, according to Hon. Mr. Ferguson. But Premier Drury smilingly showed him where it had been done last session and even in the days when Hon. Mr. Ferguson occupied a seat on the Treasury benches. Hon. Mr. Ferguson said the authority sought was all right if it were not abused by the Government.

Freeborn Is Eulogistic.

J. W. Freeborn, U.F.O. member for East Middlesex, started the oratorical ball rolling in the House at 3.15 p.m. by moving the reply to the Address in a speech which lasted just 25 minutes. Mr. Freeborn was brevity personified. He ably championed the agricultural industry, voicing the demand of the farming community for legislation which would permit it to grow and prosper. The farmers of Ontario, he said, desired nothing in the way of paternal legislation. Then, devoting a few brief words to each topic, he enumerated those enactments of the Drury Government which he considered were most in the interests of Ontario citizenship, and gave credit to the Government for its handling of the Northern Ontario fire situation, and its policy of T. & N. O. extension.

Peter Heenan, Labor member for Kenora—the farthest west Ontario constituency—confined his remarks to a discussion of the needs and hopes of his own far-away riding, and, incidentally, evoked the applause of the House by asserting that he was not a "secessionist," but hoped by persuasion and argument to get from older Ontario that to which the newer sections were, in his opinion, entitled.

To impress more vividly upon the members the point of view of citizens of Ontario living 1,200 miles from the Capital, he detailed the history of northwestern Ontario from the before the days of Confederation. He was quite sure, he said, that Ontario's far west would have fared no worse—it could not have, he said—under Manitoban administration; he was bound to say, however, that it had received more consideration from the present Government than from any other.

Mr. Heenan discussed pulp and paper industry conditions in general and the Backus venture at Kenora in

particular, stating the opinion that the Backus deal put through by the Government was one of the best of its kind ever consummated. He showed by statistics and correspondence how it had helped Kenora at a time when the municipality was threatened with bankruptcy. After all, he thought, the pulp resources of Ontario should not be made a mere matter of Provincial revenues, but should be utilized to build up prosperous communities throughout the Province. In that connection he urged the Press to educate the public to the need of prohibiting exportation of pulpwood for manufacture in the United States.

In concluding, Mr. Heenan said that he personally was not going to be satisfied with the meagre allowance of legislation heralded in the Speech from the Throne.

F. W. Hay, Liberal Leader, moved the adjournment.

The Observer in Queen's Park

It is now taken for granted that the Government intends introducing at this session a measure of proportional representation applicable to Toronto alone. This may be the only effort at redistribution with which the fifteenth Legislature will have to grapple. According to the best reports available the plan is to put into effect in this city the principle of the single transferable vote. The city, together with certain portions of East and West York, may be divided into two big constituencies, with six or seven members selected by the single transferable vote from each.

U.F.O. Not All Agreed.

The mind of the Government may not be entirely made up on this problem. It is known that many U.F.O. members are not particularly favorable to the experiment being tried in Toronto alone, but would go so far as to apply it to every single-member constituency in the Province. These men evidently foresee both Drury and Morrison candidates running in the same ridings, one for broadening out and the other for the group system, and they figure U.F.O. chances better in such cases under proportional representation. However, in the Conservative camp particularly, the information is to the effect that Toronto alone will be affected, and enough of East and West York attached to city ridings to secure the defeat of Hon. George S. Henry and Dr. Forbes Godfrey. Little else is being talked about by the followers of Hon. Howard Ferguson, and preparations are being made to fight.

"If the Government takes any step like that we shall be here until Thanksgiving," one prominent Conservative stated yesterday, and he added that any principle of proportional representation applicable to Toronto would have to be put through under closure. There is no provision in the Legislature rules of debate for closure, so that another fight would be put up against the framing of what all Oppositions call "gag regulations." Already the Conservatives are mentioning such terms as "robbery" in describing the transferable vote for Toronto.

A Conservative Fight.

The burden of the fight will be for the Conservatives. It is doubt-