

their "irresponsible utterances" on these and other occasions the electorate would, at the coming election, hold them unfit to occupy the Treasury benches.

Conservative Leader Enters Fray.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, who spoke for about an hour and a half, devoted almost all his time to dealing with affairs in the North country—timber and mines. After two and a half years, he said, there had not come from the Timber Commission any suggestion of any value to the Province for the administration of forest resources. Dr. Judson Clark had said the report was all wrong, and upheld the Provincial accounting system, Mr. Ferguson asserted.

Lumbermen and financial backers were becoming uneasy, the Conservative Leader claimed, and the result was that a deputation of practical men had conferred with the Government a couple of months ago. Mr. Ferguson went on to explain that the lumberman received credit on the title and license he held, and if that title were questioned for every little difference that might arise, the banks no longer would be prepared to consider it as a sufficient security.

Mr. Ferguson said that in Ontario 77 lumber concerns had been organized, and 56 had gone to the wall. But a half dozen others had been able to pay dividends, "and yet lumbermen throughout Ontario are charged with being timber pirates, and that attitude is encouraged and abetted by the present Administration by its attitude toward lumbermen's operations and treatment of the industry."

Critical of Backus Deal.

Mr. Ferguson then went into a long explanation of the Backus contract, and scored the Government on that deal. He denied that the sale had been advertised for three months, and said the Attorney-General had written a letter to the Minister of Lands and Forests on October 1 that the sale should be proceeded with. This was the letter the Attorney-General had succeeded in suppressing at The Telegram trial, said Mr. Ferguson.

Hon. W. E. Raney made a quick denial of this, and declared that what Mr. Ferguson had said was either ignorantly or deliberately false. Mr. Ferguson retorted that he hoped before the session was over to show that the Attorney-General not only had suppressed this document, but made it a practice to suppress documents. Mr. Raney inquired whether this would be done when Mr. Ferguson "puts the hides on the fence."

Still Nailing Up Hides.

"Your hide will be on the fence, all right," replied Mr. Ferguson. "The successful hunter is the still hunter. I am not running with the dogs. The whole row," he went on, airily waving his hand toward Cabinet benches, "will melt like snow before the summer sun."

He next turned his attention to mining matters and criticized the Government for "wiping out" going concerns because of arrears of taxes. One mine actually in operation and producing had been forfeited to the Crown because of arrears of \$9 in taxes, he claimed. Operating mines had been excluded from former forfeitures. As the result of actions like these the mining market, like the lumber trade, was uneasy because of the instability of titles. He criticized, also, the plan adopted by the Government for settling the country.

Claiming that the Government had appointed more committees and commissions in its career than had been appointed from Confederation to 1919, Mr. Ferguson again came into verbal battle with the Attorney-General.

Naughty, Naughty.

The Conservative Leader wound up this passage-at-arms by telling of attending a function the week before by invitation of the Lieutenant-Governor, and, to his surprise, seeing the Attorney-General there

smoking a cigaret. "My advice to you is to avoid the appearance of evil," he said, while Mr. Raney retorted ironically that Mr. Ferguson had "made out his case."

"There is a feeling with the public that there is just a little too much tyranny exercised by the central authority over the general officers throughout the Province," said the Conservative Leader. Tyranny was

inevitably the badge of weakness. After recalling to the attention of the Government the fate of King Charles I., Mr. Ferguson added: "I would advise the Attorney-General to remember the spirit of Oliver Cromwell is still alive in this country."

After criticism of the roads and unemployment policies of the Government, Mr. Ferguson closed his speech with a reference to the proposed new representation in the Province.

"If we are to have no rearrangement of the electoral units in the Province of Ontario, no readjustment of representation, then I say to you, you have no right to resort to the unfair position, by political chicanery, of attempting to secure an unfair advantage against either one or the other parties in opposition."

Challenge to Election.

He maintained the duty of the Government was to submit itself and its record to the same people and under the same circumstances as brought it into power. "I challenge you to accept that position and submit yourself to Ontario as the Province in political units now stands."

Before the debate there was a short discussion as to who was responsible for the House adjourning from Friday to Tuesday. Mr. Ferguson read an article in The Brantford Expositor which, he claimed, seemed to show that he was to blame. Had he been told on Thursday he was to be called on to speak on Friday, that would have been a different matter. He had been called upon without notice, he said, and it had not been the practice to continue the debates on Friday. If the Government was ready it could have had business to proceed with.

Premier Drury, on the other hand, said the debate was left over at the distinct request of Mr. Ferguson. With both sides disclaiming responsibility for the adjournment, the dispute petered out.

BILLS INTRODUCED WOULD ALTER LAWS

Dr. H. A. Stevenson Proposes Alteration in Voters' List Act

FIXITY OF ASSESSMENT

Several bills making minor changes in existing laws were introduced by private members in the Legislature yesterday and given first reading.

R. L. Brackin, Liberal, West Kent, introduced a bill to prevent the export of gravel from the bed of the St. Clair River.

H. P. Hill, Conservative, West Ottawa, introduced a bill amending the law as to contributory negligence, so that where negligence is involved with contributory negligence the damage shall be apportioned between the parties. He also introduced a bill to amend the Municipal Act, giving parties suffering damage on municipal property by negligence of the municipality power to issue a writ after the present statutory limitation of three months by permission of a Judge.

Dr. H. A. Stevenson, Labor, London, introduced a bill amending the Ontario Voters' List Act to give a Judge power to correct mistakes arising out of gross error, or where there has been a change of residence. Another bill introduced by him, respecting municipal taxation, proposes that the Council may pass a by-law saying that the assessment may stand for from one to four years as the Council sees fit. The idea is that a person may know in advance what his assessment will be for a fixed term, in the same way that a person knows what his rent will be when under lease. It is claimed also that the change will prevent increase of debentures to stabilize the assessment.