

# OPPOSITION ARISES TO VEHICLES BILL ON SECOND READING

**Proposal to Take Percentage From Motor Bus Companies Meets Criticism of J. A. Currie and Hon. G. S. Henry—Two Bills Sponsored by H. H. Dewart Also Given Second Reading**

## WANTS SAFEGUARDS FOR SHAREHOLDERS

Three bills passed second reading in the Ontario Legislature during Friday's short session, among them Hon. F. C. Biggs' measure to regulate the operation of public vehicles, which represents the opinions of a House Committee which considered the whole traffic problem at great length during the recess.

The other two were both sponsored by H. H. Dewart, K.C.,—one to amend the Companies Act so as to make company information accessible to shareholders and the investing public and prevent distribution of company capitalization funds in directors' fees; and the other to make possible civil action against Hydro-electric radials without a fiat from the Attorney-General.

### Biggs' Bill Is Criticized.

Hon. Mr. Biggs' bill met with some considerable criticism from John A. Currie and Hon. G. S. Henry, who, in connection with the proposal to exact a percentage of gross earnings from motor bus companies operating over public highways, accused the Minister of grabbing revenues some of which belonged to the municipalities. Both Opposition members pointed out that the department, which proposed to take all the revenue for wear and tear on the roads, did not contribute all the funds. The municipalities and the Dominion Government made contributions. Mr. Currie stated his intention of moving an amendment in committee.

On another point Hon. Mr. Biggs gave assurance to the House that it was not proposed to assume authority on the part of the department to grant franchises to motor bus lines operating on roads other than those Provincially built. Urban municipalities had nothing to fear in this regard.

### Measure Also Commended.

During the discussion Hon. G. S. Henry made a statement to the House in which he declared that the recommendation as to exaction of a percentage of gross earnings of bus lines operating under departmental enfranchisement could not be considered as the studied opinion of the committee. It had failed to arrive at just that conclusion. On other points he commended the proposed measure.

Under the terms of the bill Hon. Mr. Biggs proposes to regulate in every detail the operation of bus services in Ontario.

John A. Currie also intimated his intention of moving an amendment to Mr. Dewart's Companies Act Bill. It was all right, he said, to make compulsory the distribution of information to shareholders, but it was not right to compel filing with the Provincial Secretary, whose data were open to the public. It would have the effect of forcing companies to take out Ottawa charters instead of Ontario, and lose revenue to the Province.

## FERGUSON CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT RECORD

**Claims Drury Administration  
Is Extravagant, and Is  
Doomed to Die**

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

London, Ont., Feb. 9.—Hon. G. Howard Ferguson and W. F. Nickle, K.C., were the feted guests of the Conservatives of western Ontario constituencies at a rally held here today in conjunction with the removal of the local Conservative club to new quarters. Tonight at a dinner held at Smallman and Ingram's in their honor, Mr. Ferguson criticized the Government for extravagance, especially in its road-building program, but in a general way in all matters that have contributed to what he termed a "riot of extravagance," which has sent ordinary, extraordinary and capital expenditures to new high levels.

### Criticizes Commissions.

The Sutherland and Gregory Commissions were deliberately set to work, and were given a million dollars to spend for the definite purpose of wrecking the public ownership in Ontario, he said, while the timber probe, he claimed, was for no other purpose than to "get Ferguson." In this pursuit, he claimed, they have failed.

His biting references to his "little friend," Attorney-General Raney, concluded with a declaration that two thousand years ago a fellow raised his voice to heaven to thank God he was not as other men, and that down through the ages to the present day can be traced the influence of heredity.

His speech concluded with a declaration that the Drury Administration is moribund and dying, and that it will be swept from office at the next appeal to the electorate, leaving himself and his colleagues enthroned in Queen's Park, not merely with the largest group, but with a clear majority. Mr. Drury and Mr. Hay, he said, have a clearly obvious working arrangement to beat the Tories, but he thought that that will not avail.

### Scores Government Finances.

Mr. Nickle's address was a resume of his criticisms of the finances of the Government made from time to time in the Legislature. The multiplication of commissions, of roads costs in the face of pre-election pledges of economy, and of forms of taxation new and old had laid upon the shoulders of the people a burden such as they had never before been called upon to bear, he claimed.