

of revolt. Personal freedom and local autonomy are practically unknown. It is about time to call a halt to the passing of faddists' compulsory legislation."

To Mr. Casselman's way of thinking reform should be sought through the home, not through the Legislature. Reformers were now attempting "to educate our youth toward white-collar jobs at a time when civilization is crying for efficient workers."

Agriculture was the Province's basic industry, and yet, in the face of urgent demand for farm workers, the Government was educating the young away from the farm. "So long as secondary education tends toward the academic rather than toward the vocational secondary education is an economic evil, because it tends to educate our boys and girls off the farm," he declared.

Criticizes Principal Grant.

Mr. Casselman then turned to castigate Principal Grant of Upper Canada College, who is reported as stating that "tight-wad farmers," who thought the boy's place was on the farm, were in large measure responsible for the opposition to the Adolescent School Attendance Act. "That is a deliberate libel against my calling and a gratuitous insult to the farmers of this Province," he said. "I throw the words in the teeth of any man who makes the scurvy implication that farmers are tight-wads," he said with heat. The question hinged on the financial ability of the farming community to bear the expense of the enforcement of the act and on the imperative need that some of the farmer's family stay at home to help work the farm.

Further, the tendency of the act was toward the creation of consolidated schools. The latter were not feasible in eastern Ontario. Population was too sparse and distances too great. The speaker was cognizant of cases where "little tots" were forced to leave home in the early dawn and return home after sunset in order to attend a consolidated school.

Hon. R. H. Grant, Minister of Education, interjected to ask if the consolidation had not been endorsed by a majority of the ratepayers.

Evades Question.

Mr. Casselman evaded the question by declaring that the department had paid no heed to repeated protests. A similar case had arisen in Prince Edward county. Ninety per cent. of the ratepayers wanted to abandon a consolidation. The speaker understood the department was going to hold the municipality to their original intention. "That would be absolute, downright prostitution of democracy," he exclaimed.

The speaker then detailed the sources from which he drew support. The Council of the United Counties of Glengarry, Stormont and Dundas had passed a resolution against enforcement of the act. In addition, he had received similar resolutions from 59 other municipal bodies representing 33 ridings, and letters from many individuals.

"If this Government fails to find a solution for this question, it will be only one more instance where urban influence has triumphed over a Government whose only hope of support lies in the rural districts."

Premier Makes Reply.

Premier Drury followed with a brief speech, during which he denied the compulsory character of the act, quoting from its clauses to show that individual children could be exempted from attendance at the discretion of the Attendance Officer. Statistics indicated that children who were out of school between the ages of 14 and 16, and who were not steadily employed, stood excellent chances of becoming criminals. In the towns and cities the act was working well, and the enforcement of any law was bound to give rise to criticism from some source.

The member for Dundas, continued the Premier, had declared that the rural districts did not want further educational facilities. "But what we need on the farm is not less education but more education," said he. Unless the farmer could be educated out of the peasant class into the yeoman class, the country would come to a bad pass.

Came Too Soon?

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, who took up discussion after the supper hour, contended for the principle of

the Adolescent School Act, but expressed a conviction that it had been brought into effect too soon. In the midst of Hon. Mr. Ferguson's statement Mr. Casselman interjected the information that the Drury Government had never consulted its followers upon the proclamation of the act, which led the Conservative Leader to observe that that was not his conception of the correct course for any Government to follow.

The Conservative Leader declared himself for a division between rural and urban municipalities in the operation of the act, the measure being one, he said, that was, in some respects highly desirable in urban centres and apt to work hardships in farm districts.

F. Wellington Hay, Liberal Leader, after commending Mr. Casselman for his able presentation to the Legislature, thought the Government would be well advised not to proclaim that further section of the act, compelling part-time attendance between the ages of 16 and 18. There ought to be no objection, he said, to attendance between 14 and 16.

Hon. R. H. Grant, after an explanation of the methods pursued by the department in enforcing the measure, announced his important concession to Mr. Casselman's contentions. His amendment would read: "The obligation to attend school under this section shall not apply to any adolescent whose parents or guardians reside in rural school sections and whose services are required in the household or on the farm of his parent or guardian," no permit being necessary.

Mr. Brackin characterized the Minister's promised amendment as an abrogation of the act as applied to rural Ontario.

PROVINCE NOT BEHIND ASSOCIATION'S WORK

Doherty Denies Ontario Is Co-operating With Colonization Body

In answer to a question asked by Hon. G. H. Ferguson in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, declared that the Provincial Government had not endorsed the activities of the Canada Colonization Association, and that his department was not co-operating with the Federal Department of Agriculture in so far as the land-selling operations of that particular agency were concerned.

Rising before the orders of the day were called, Mr. Ferguson, after referring at some little length to Tuesday's debate in the House of Commons, inquired as to the correctness of one of the assertions reported to have been made by Hon. Charles Stewart, Federal Minister of Immigration, namely, that the Province of Ontario was co-operating with the Dominion Government in aiding the Colonization Association.

"In so far as the general immigration work is concerned," replied Mr. Doherty, "this Government is co-operating with the Federal authorities, but in so far as this organization is concerned, in so far as I am aware, this Province has never even been consulted. There is certainly no connection between the Department of Immigration of the Province of Ontario and this organization."

Mr. Ferguson then switched to the Province's attitude on the proposed revision of the Banking Act. Had the Ontario Government taken steps to secure representation before the House of Commons Banking Committee he asked.

"The Province has not made application for a hearing," answered Mr. Doherty. "The Cabinet is considering whether that is desirable, but no decision has been reached as yet."

MOTOR CAR MARKERS SUBJECT OF DEBATE

Hint of Patronage on Part of Minister in Letting Contract

GIVEN HIGHEST TENDER

Three Conservative legal members—Messrs. W. H. Price, K.C., Parkdale; T. H. Lennox, K.C., North York, and H. Hill, Ottawa—prosecuted vigorous and exhaustive examination of Government officials before the Public Accounts Committee yesterday morning, relative to the letting of contract for 1923 automobile markers, which, it was admitted, was let at a price of 23 cents per pair to the highest of several tenderers.

As a general wind-up to the inquiry, Mr. Price intimated a possibility that the letting of the contract to the Canadian Color Type Company, Limited, of Hamilton was prompted by a desire on Hon. Mr. Biggs' part to favor his political friends, whereupon the Minister came back with the accusation that the whole attack of the Conservatives was the result of their chagrin that their political friends had been overlooked.

Only two witnesses were before the committee, Deputy Provincial Secretary Johns and Deputy Minister of Highways W. A. McLean. Mr. Johns' evidence dealt with certain failures on the part of the company to make returns in accordance with the Companies Act, and with the delivery of the company charter to Hon. F. C. Biggs by Mr. Semple, private secretary to the Provincial Secretary.

The greater part of the examination of Mr. McLean was as to what justification the department would give for letting the contract to the highest tenderer, and the explanation forthcoming from Messrs. Biggs and McLean was that the super-quality of the steel, the embossing and the design of the Color Type offering warranted the purchase.

At the conclusion of the sitting the committee voted on several resolutions by Mr. Price to bring down the principals of the Canadian Color Type Company and W. H. Banfield, one of the other tenderers. As a result some of Mr. Price's motions were stricken out—notably one to have Mr. Banfield produce invoices showing the quality of his enamel and steel, and another to have the Canadian Color Type people produce their bank book.