

REDISTRIBUTION BILL IS SUDDEN DECISION OF DRURY'S CAUCUS

**All Signs Point to Measure
Being Brought on With-
out Delay, Owing to
Pressure of Supporting
Powers Behind Scenes—
Details Kept Secret**

SELECT COMMITTEE TO SIT AT ONCE

A Redistribution Bill for Ontario is now heralded for the present sitting of the Legislature. After all the evenings of study and discussion which Government members have devoted to the technical problems of proportional representation and single alternative vote, it is said that in caucus yesterday Drury Government followers favored throwing the whole question of electoral reform, including redistribution, into the hands of a select committee of the Legislature. Final decision is said to have been left to the Cabinet.

Comes as Surprise.

The reported decision of the Government caucus is a complete surprise to many members of the House, not excluding men who are themselves in the confidence of the Government. As recently as a few days ago redistribution was stated to be a dead issue with the Government forces this session, the issue appearing to rest upon a try-out of "P.R." in three ridings. Yesterday's session of caucus which dealt with the matter is said to have been a very stormy one, particularly during its deliberations upon proportional representation.

Although Government members kept the secret of caucus a deep secret, the best guess would seem to be that Ontario is, after all, to have redistribution. The change of heart upon the big issue of a shake-up in electoral divisions is said to have come about as a result of frank criticism from warm friends of the Government of any attempt to evade what was deemed an obvious duty devolving upon the Government.

Should Premier Drury announce a redistribution measure in his Budget speech next week, the matter will come before the House in the form of a simple bill to redistribute the electoral ridings of the Province. No attempt at delineation of new ridings is brought down in the bill, such work necessitating the lengthy labors of a select committee, to sit immediately, and to report back to the House. The committee would, of course, have a Government majority among its numbers.

WOULD SAVE EXPENSE IN SEARCHING TITLES

Attorney-General Introduces Bill to Simplify Present- day Problem

Three more Government bills made their appearance on the floor of the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon, one of them an important measure by the Attorney-General which, as he stated, marks the first step of the Province in the direction of the simplification of land titles. Its purport, Mr. Raney stated, had been carefully considered by the official law organizations.

Saves Duplicate Expense.

The intention of the bill is to bring forward the search of land titles from the Crown patent, at which the law now stands, to the year 1890. Mr. Raney said that its enactment would save immense labor and expense in the unending search of land titles back to Crown patent. The Attorney-General used the term "scores of years of time" in discussing the present-day situation where every purchaser of property hires a lawyer to repeat a process which may have been performed a few months previous by another.

Another bill introduced was that of Hon. Harry Mills, to permit holders of surface rights to buy certain mineral rights owned by the Canada Land Company.

Other Bills.

Hon. Peter Smith introduced a bill respecting billiard and pool rooms, defining the fiscal year from June 1 to May 31; providing for part of a year's payment when the owner has only acquired a pool room for a portion of a year; defining what a pool room is, and providing who may take affidavits.

The Attorney-General announced that it was not yet decided whether or not to establish a Hotels Commission. He said a bill respecting the Court of Appeal in Ontario would be introduced this session.

REVENUE QUESTION MAY STAND IN WAY OF NEW EXTENSION

Premier, However, to Con- sider T. & N. O. Line to Kirkland Lake Area

TO HONOR MEDICAL MEN

Premier Drury made the announcement yesterday in the Legislature that next week he is to consult with the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway Commissioners to consider whether railway extension will be made into the Kirkland Lake area. The whole matter will be canvassed, he said, at that meeting.

What Are C.P.R. Plans?

The question came before the Legislature before the orders of the day when W. H. Casselman, U.F.O., Dundas, after reading an editorial from a Northern Ontario paper, said that it was rumored that the Canadian Pacific Railway was to extend into the Quebec field, and in that case the business in the mining area of Kirkland Lake and Swastika would go to Montreal. He advised Govern-

ment consideration. Mr. Casselman was supported in his request by Malcolm Lang, Liberal, Cochrane.

Premier Drury said he had expected to make a rather full announcement on T. & N.O. affairs during his Budget speech. He could say at present that the T. & N.O. Commissioners had been looking into the Kirkland Lake area. The freight yield in mining areas was small. Figures gathered as to freight going into the Kirkland Lake district did not indicate that the line could be a paying proposition in the near future. He then announced the meeting for next week.

"Revenue No Object."

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Conservative Leader, took exception to the Premier's reference to revenue expected from the new line, and said the T. & N.O. never had been built to earn dividends for the Province. Was the Government going to wait in a new country until business developed before opening up a railway? He wanted to know about other areas.

The Premier replied to this that he thought that Kirkland Lake was the only area sufficiently developed to warrant building a railway. Following some cross-firing from Cabinet benches Mr. Ferguson declared warmly that he knew more about Northern Ontario and its needs than did any member of the Government, and he knew what the country required up there.

Wishes It Were True.

Following this debate Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Conservative, West York, read a telegram that he said he had received a week ago at a birthday party. The telegram read: "Congratulations on your 21st birthday. May you live long to represent West York. The hatchet is buried. Issue as many as you like. Drink hearty. Signed, W. E. Raney." "At least we can be friendly at birthday parties," said Dr. Godfrey as the House roared with laughter, and he said he hoped the message was genuine.

Answering a question of Mr. Ferguson, the Premier said that the Chairman of the Hydro Inquiry Commission had told him that, starting any day now, this commission would begin to issue a series of interim reports.

To Honor Dr. Banting.

Asked regarding further legislation, the Premier said he was having a bill prepared in recognition of Dr. F. G. Banting's services. He would consult the Leaders of the Liberal and Conservative parties about this bill, he said. J. C. Ramsden, Liberal, Southwest Toronto, said he could give the Premier any needed information about Dr. Cotton to include him in the bill.

Dr. Godfrey asked what Dr. Cotton had ever done. He had heard the speech of Mr. Ramsden the other day concerning Dr. Cotton, Dr. Godfrey said, and added that "there was no great discovery that I know of." Later, Dr. Godfrey said, in asking that the medical men of the House be consulted in regard to this new bill, that he "apologized to the member for Southwest Toronto, but "I'll talk it over with him privately."

Joseph E. Thompson, Northeast Toronto, asked if Mr. Best would be recognized in the proposed Government bill. "Mr. Best is coupled with Dr. Banting," replied the Premier.

Hon. Harry Mills got first reading for his bill to permit holders of surface rights to buy certain mineral rights owned by the Canada Land Company.