

he said, the Minister of Agriculture's action in participating in the controversy in England was decidedly not the most ethical thing to do.

From that point Mr. Ferguson delved into what he deemed the odd synchronization of circumstance of the enlistment of Lord Beaverbrook's support for the removal of the embargo and the abandonment by the Drury Government of an intended move to establish a cement industry in the Province to keep in check the cement trust, of which Lord Beaverbrook was at that time presumed to be the head.

Premier Drury laughed audibly in his seat, and commented, "Sherlock Holmes," but Mr. Ferguson, undaunted, went on to imply that quite obviously the Drury Government had not since displayed the same regard for the people of the Province in connection with their cement requirements. He knew very well, he said, that representations had been made by Beaverbrook, through local agencies, to the Government.

The Premier arose to suggest a further deduction—that the Government evolved the cement plant idea to use as a lever on Beaverbrook to enlist his support in the removal of the cattle embargo. The Conservative Leader smilingly pursued his course, however, arguing that there was "good ground for suspicion that my honorable friend was able to get to his friend, Sir Max Aitken, who was partner in some of his venal iniquities down by the sea."

From there Mr. Ferguson proceeded to a Budget discussion, which brought down Mr. Speaker's interruption. He recalled that one thing the Farmers' Government could be said to have done for the youth on the farm was to increase taxation by \$13,000,000 and treble the debt of the Province, even excluding from consideration T. & N.O. and Hydro expenditures.

#### Ferguson Second Buzfuz.

Premier Drury likened Mr. Ferguson to Dickens' famous creation, Sergeant Buzfuz, and concluded that the Conservative Leader had not even succeeded in convincing himself with his argument. The cement plant proposal, Mr. Drury said, might constitute for Mr. Ferguson a "chops and tomato sauce" conclusive argument, but its effect upon the people would be to make them laugh.

Then Mr. Drury went back into Mr. Ferguson's political history, timber, Kapuskasing, and so on—pressing on through a point of order by W. E. N. Sinclair, who wanted to see his agricultural resolution discussed—and arrived at the conclusion that the people had rejected Mr. Ferguson without knowing one-tenth of the truth about him politically.

Mr. Ferguson—Yes, and they got a lemon.

Mr. Drury—Well, a lemon is a clean, wholesome fruit.

The Premier then went over much of the old ground of cattle embargo argument and history, giving the Minister of Agriculture credit for at least taking part in the successful move to have it lifted, and, after explanation of how Hon. Thomas Crawford's ill-fated shipment had brought on the embargo 30 years ago, said that if he wanted to put two and two together and make five he could blame the whole business on the Tory party in the Legislature.

#### Farmers Not Taxed.

As regarded the increased debt and taxation, he said that additional taxation had come from proper channels. Little of it had come from the farmers, and much from other sources, such as timber, and so on. He disagreed with Sir Thomas White, who said that the debt of the country must come out of the top six inches of the soil, and opined that it should come out of the useless luxury of the people.

F. G. Sandy (U.F.O., South Victoria) said that this Government had given additional grants to schools in South Victoria. Where \$7,675 had been given in 1919 there was \$18,862 given in 1922. Every school except one got from two to three times as much.

Dr. H. A. Stevenson (Labor, London) said that some credit was due the Labor people for helping to remove the cattle embargo. He said a resolution asking for the removal of the embargo had been passed two years ago by the Labor group of the House, which resolution had been sent to Lloyd George and British Labor leaders.

## CHEESE FACTORIES WOULD BE MERGED TO SECURE GRANTS

### Hon. Manning Doherty's Bill Gets Second Reading in House

#### PROVINCE MAKES LOANS

Second reading was given yesterday in the Legislature to the bill introduced by Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, to encourage the consolidation of cheese factories. The measure aims to give such encouragement by lending such money at 5 per cent. interest, and it was around this phase of the bill that whatever opposition it had arose. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Conservative Leader, had some doubts about putting public money into competition with private enterprise, although he favored the purpose of the bill, which is to raise and make uniform the quality of cheese produced. That something is needed was emphasized by Mr. Doherty, who declared at one stage of the debate that "we have come to the point where we have to do something or else close the factories up." The Government had the power to close them up, said the Minister.

R. R. Hall, Liberal, Parry Sound, thought that others beside farmers should have the right to borrow money from the Government at a low rate of interest, and argued that even in this case some farmers were granted that right, and others had it denied them. He brought a hot retort from Dr. H. A. Stevenson, Labor, London, who interpreted one part of Mr. Hall's speech as reflecting on the quality of produce the farmers sold to the cheese factories. "There's a law against them doing that," said the London member, and referred to Mr. Hall's remarks as a "charge." "Let the law be enforced then," said Mr. Hall.

Mr. Doherty, in explaining his bill, referred to a recent survey of 112 cheese factories, which survey was explained fully from Bulletin No. 291 of the department, showing the cost per 100 pounds between factories producing over 200 tons a year and factories producing under 20 tons differing by about \$2.50. This survey, said the Minister, covered one-seventh of all the factories which made one-sixth of the total production, and if these factories had been consolidated to bring the average production to 100 tons, the saving in production for last year in eastern Ontario alone would have been approximately \$515,000.

Explaining the bill, Mr. Doherty said that loans would be made where the farmers of any district were prepared to erect a modern dairy plant to take the place of two smaller ones, and were prepared to deliver to the factory annually three million pounds of milk to the same dairy. The Government would advance a loan to 80 per cent. of the value of the plant and the property. The patrons forming the company would take stock, and would pay up 20 per cent. The department would approve the site and the plant, and would have a representative on the Board of Directors until the loan is paid up. From the returns made to each patron there is to be deducted from his milk cheque a certain percentage, and this will be put into a trust fund, and every three months paid over to the department and credited against the loan.

The bill to authorize the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to guarantee debenture issues by the Presqu'île Park Commission passed through committee.

A resolution of Hon. Peter Smith, Provincial Treasurer, authorizing the Cabinet to invest up to \$2,000,000 for the purchase of debentures issued under by-laws passed by municipalities pursuant to the Tile Drainage Act, was passed, and a bill, based on the resolution, to amend the act, was introduced and read a first time.

# The OBSERVER IN QUEEN'S PARK

A partial canvass of members of the Legislature, particularly Government members, indicates quite clearly that the old political battle-cry, "Representation by population," is nothing but a memory so far as the impending Ontario situation is concerned. Rep. by Pop. will find no place in the forthcoming Provincial redistribution—that is, provided the U.F.O. have their way, and presumably they will.

Agrarian members can see no justice in giving Toronto equality in representation with any rural riding. Neither can they discern any righteousness in a proposal which would give Hamilton or London or Ottawa equality in representation with ridings where agriculture predominates. So united are the U.F.O. members on this particular point that, fight for equality as city members may, the latter are almost certain to be smothered. Rural Ontario members now have control, and there is no doubt they intend to hold it.

"If my riding was as close to the Legislature as Toronto is we would not require any representation," one U.F.O. stalwart claimed yesterday, and that is the attitude almost held generally outside of members representing the multitudes in the urban centres.

#### Toronto Unit 60,000?

To show the effect of the U.F.O. view reference must be made again to the 1921 census figures which are the basis of the coming redistribution. Ontario's population was given at 2,933,662. At present the Legislature consists of 111 members, and if representation were based on strict equality each member would be responsible for 26,428 persons. In other words, under representation by population 26,429 would be the unit. To indicate how great a departure from the principle of Rep. by Pop. this Government may make, the different units now in the minds of U.F.O. leaders can be stated.

According to opinions held by responsible men on the Government side, the Toronto representation should be in a class by itself, 60,000 or more for each member. For other urban centres, such as Hamilton, London and Ottawa, they would make 45,000 or 50,000 the unit of population. For rural ridings they consider around 25,000 a fair unit, and 20,000 or less for the scattered constituencies of New Ontario.

It is believed, too, that the Drury Government is going to try to reduce the present House membership from 111 to about 100.

#### More Territory for Toronto.

The 1921 census figures of the ridings represented by the ten Toronto members are 453,840, an average of 45,384 each. If the unit of representation for Toronto were raised to 60,000, this city, as now constituted for Legislative ridings, would be given at least two fewer members. The course likely to be followed if the 60,000 unit holds good will be to take in parts of East and West York and leave the membership at ten.

Government members as a general rule are strongly in opposition to the idea of breaking the present county boundaries, but they see plenty of changes to be made within many county limits as now constituted. Some of them who have gone over the Province think the designations of ridings is nothing more or less than a Conservative gerrymander, and they are out to remedy this fault if possible.

#### Not Very Enthusiastic Yet.

It is not far from the truth to state that the Cabinet regret they did not bring down the redistribution bill in blank last session.