

The Conservative Leader was frank in his expression of opinion that electoral reforms could not be carried out, as the Premier had suggested, by May 4. He counted a host of bills and motions to be dealt with, besides the whole of next year's estimates.

Particularly would the task be impossible if the Premier was to hitch on to the Redistribution Bill this fad of proportional representation, because I can tell him it is the most unfair proposition and the most unthinkable, preposterous suggestion, that with dissolution three weeks away and election six weeks after that, we are to introduce an entirely novel system of electoral reform, and

expect people not only to be informed on the public questions, but expect them to be trained and educated to be able to work out this 'hazy-mazy mess!'

The Premier's suggestion of a differentiation in units of representation, said Mr. Ferguson, was a distinct violation of the principle of representative institutions as outlined in the B. N. A. Act, and that was the broad basis of population.

#### To Press Other Bills.

Mr. Ferguson elicited from the Premier the information that the other two electoral reform bills would be pressed immediately—probably today (Tuesday). He then ventured the opinion that "not in months" could these electoral bills be got through the House and committee if the Government was to attempt to start out on a basis of differentiation rather than equalization of units of population.

Mr. Ferguson returned to Toronto's particular defense, declaring that, while there was a time when differentiation in the rural and urban centres was justifiable, "the time has arrived when there is very little reason for fixing any difference between representation unit in rural Ontario and a more thickly populated centre."

#### Riding Populations Vary.

W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., Liberal member for South Ontario, instanced wide discrepancies in the populations of ridings adjacent to that of South Ontario. While South Ontario had a population of 31,074, North Ontario had only 15,420, East Durham 12,619, West Durham 12,830, and South Victoria 18,568.

Mr. Sinclair criticized the Government for its failure to give notice of redistribution in the Budget speech, where, in Mr. Sinclair's opinion, due notice ought to have been given. The electoral reform bills, he protested, must have been in the Government pigeonholes for weeks, but they were only produced when the Government got "stage fright" on the Hicks incident.

"If the Government was sincere in its desire for electoral reform," he said, "it was the Government's duty to have had these electoral reform bills introduced at an earlier date, when every member must know that no committee can get through in the allotted time. Any failure to get redistribution through must be at the door of the Government."

#### Cities' Problems Complex.

While there might be something to the Premier's suggestion of a super-high unit of representation for urban centres, it did seem to Mr. Sinclair "that representation by population of human beings is the end to be desired in all Legislature bodies." Mr. Sinclair reminded Government members that a big city's problems were more complex than those of rural centres, and, after all, reference to the statute books would show that 75 per cent. of the legislation was peculiarly urban in character.

"I would not say," he added, "that there should be the same representation in city ridings as in rural ridings, but I cannot consistently support the present disparities."

"It does seem to me the basis on which this committee should start would be that of representation by population, of equality of all men and women and children in this Province, whether living in rural parts, in villages or towns or cities."

Mr. Sinclair thought it was unfair to have a proportional representation bill hung on to a redistribution bill, which would prejudice the chances of the latter.

#### Questions Government's Sincerity.

A. C. Lewis (Conservative, North-east Toronto) attacked the sincerity

of the Government in its desires for redistribution, when it held back the bill until the twelfth week of the session, and then expected the bill to get through in three weeks.

Following a cross-floor debate with the Premier as to just what Hon. Mr. Drury had stated, J. A. Currie (Conservative, Southeast Toronto) accused the Premier of vacillating, and ventured the opinion that the Premier would eventually change his mind on a June election.

## RACE-BETTING BILL IS NOT WATERTIGHT, FERGUSON AFFIRMS

### Attorney-General's Measure Gets Third Reading After Stormy Debate

#### WORD "ENTRIES" IS CAUSE

Third reading was given yesterday in the Legislature to the Attorney-General's bill respecting the publication of betting information, but the final disposition of the measure had not come until after the bill was brought back into Committee of the Whole and amendments suggested by Mr. Raney accepted. These amendments wiped out the amendment inserted on a previous day that the prohibition as regards publication was to extend to "entries, names of owners, stables and jockeys."

#### Vigorous Criticism.

The Attorney-General's suggested changes of yesterday precipitated the warmest discussion on the merits of the bill that the measure has experienced. The insertion of the words "entries, names of owners, stables and jockeys" had come as the result of a suggestion from the Conservative Leader, Hon. G. Howard Ferguson. Mr. Raney intimated yesterday that these suggestions were in the nature of "gifts from the Greeks," while the Conservative Leader, going over the whole field of Mr. Raney's attitude as regards betting, asserted vigorously that he lacked sincerity in presenting the present measure to the House. He had introduced a bill in the Legislature, Mr. Ferguson said, "with so many openings in it that the boy on the street may evade it without difficulty."

#### Alleges Insincerity.

For over half an hour Mr. Ferguson criticized vigorously the Attorney-General for his alleged insincerity on the matter of reform in regard to betting laws, and Mr. Raney denied promptly that any representations had been made on the subject to him since the previous day's discussion. His explanation of the changes he suggested was that in the original bill the reference was only to betting, whereas in the words that were added reference was to the sporting side. If any change whatever was to be made to the original bill the wording should be "entries and results," but his own suggestion was that they ought to limit the bill to the elimination of that which they were trying to destroy—that is, handbook-making—and not to interfere with the sporting side of horse-racing unless it were very clear that the word "entries" and the other words added were very material elements in the handbook business.

#### What Ferguson Would Do.

The suggested amendment of Mr. Ferguson, which had been adopted on a previous day, in reference to the King's Plate, for instance, would prevent publication of practically everything prior to that race. His information was that the words "entries and results" did not bulk large as contributing factors in the handbook agent. Furthermore, if Mr. Ferguson's amendment were allowed to stand no county fair could announce in advance what the entries were in races it desired to hold.

Mr. Ferguson suggested exempting county fairs, and W. F. Nickle, K.C., Conservative, Kingston, add-

ed that if they were going to make a job of it, then make a job of it and watertight the doors." Mr. Raney retorted that if "entries" were to be covered, then the "results" would have to be covered also. "Then you would have a bill that would get you into disrepute," commented J. Walter Curry, Liberal, Southeast Toronto, who supported Mr. Raney in his suggested amendments.

#### Conservatives Oppose It.

When the vote was taken on Mr. Raney's amendment to eliminate the words "entries," "names of owners, stables and jockeys," the Government members voted solidly in favor, supported by several Liberals and one Independent, G. G. Halcrow. The Conservatives voted solidly against, supported by H. S. Cooper, Liberal, Northwest Toronto.

There were some hot exchanges during the debate between Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Curry, and between J. A. Currie and the Attorney-General. The battle continued into third reading, which was granted at first without opposition. Later Mr. Currie said he objected and wanted the third reading deferred, but the Speaker ruled that he already had put the question and that the motion had carried.

#### "Gifts From Greeks."

In introducing his amendments Mr. Raney said that on the previous day he had been thrown off his guard by the new-born zeal of the member for Grenville, and "accepted some gifts from the Greeks which I am not sure now that I ought to accept." The House would observe, he said, that the words "tips, selections, etc.," were all matters relating to betting, whereas the words suggested by the Conservative Leader were matters relating altogether to the sporting end of the races. The inclusion of those words had been considered during the drafting of the bill, and it had been represented to him that the words "entries, names of owners, etc.," were only remotely connected with the vice it was intended to hit.

#### Not Right Method.

The point he was calling to the attention of the House, proceeded Mr. Raney, concerning the words suggested by the member for Grenville, was that, if the House were going to prohibit news items directed chiefly to the sporting side, they had not gone the best way about it. What they ought to do, in that event, was to prohibit the publication of "entries and results." This would make it an offense for newspapers to publish the entries and results of the King's Plate, for instance.

Mr. Ferguson asked him if handbooks did not operate on the King's Plate race. Mr. Raney thought not, but thought the thing doing the most danger in the handbook business was the foreign tracks "while our own are not being operated."

#### "Entries and Results."

If the words "entries and results" were put in the bill, that, of course, would be an exceedingly drastic provision, continued the Attorney-General. "You absolutely close out everything from the news columns as far as horses are concerned. I am disposed to take the risk to recommend to the House that this clause should be allowed to stand as drafted, so as to prohibit things directly applicable to the handbook situation." If it were found to be not comprehensive enough to cover the situation, the other words might be added at a later session.

Mr. Ferguson immediately launched into a criticism of the sincerity of the Attorney-General. The handbook business was an evil, and he was prepared to associate himself in the elimination of it, but he was not willing to associate himself with a man not in earnest.

#### Would "Go the Limit."

"My honorable friend admits in so many words that this will permit handbooks operating on American tracks," said Mr. Ferguson. "I am told that they operate in connection with Canadian tracks, too. My point is, if we are sincere—if the Attorney-General means what he says in reference to an evil he says is eating out the heart of the morality of this Province—it is his duty to pass legislation that will go the limit."

The Attorney-General replied that he was prepared to leave it to the judgment of the House. Mr. Ferguson's answer was that the Attorney-General was saying he would not