

Sat. March 1st

VIGOROUS PROTEST BY HOUSE MEMBER ON BEHALF OF SON

C. R. McKeown Says Boy Re- fused Permission to Re- peat Varsity Year

PREMIER TO INVESTIGATE

Prompt inquiry and, if necessary, decisive action were promised by Premier Ferguson in the Legislature yesterday in answer to a complaint by C. R. McKeown (Conservative, Dufferin) that his son, having matriculated and attended the University of Toronto for one year, but having failed in his examinations, was refused permission by the University authorities to repeat his year.

The Premier said it was "almost inconceivable" that such a thing could have occurred, and asked Mr. McKeown to put his case in a letter to the Prime Minister, and he would investigate the complaint.

Power of Governors.

Mr. McKeown brought up his grievance during the discussion of the bill to permit graduates' representation on the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto. He asked the Premier if the Board of Governors had any right, apart from the matter of qualification, to say who shall and who shall not attend the University. He cited the case of a student who had complied in every way with the regulations, but who had failed in his first-year examinations, and this student was told he could not repeat the year. He said he himself had applied personally in appeal, and was told that the student could go back to high school. The student had full matriculation standing, he said, in answer to a question from the Premier.

Mr. Ferguson said he was glad his attention had been called to this case, and that he would look into it carefully. It was almost inconceivable, he added, that such a thing could occur, but if it was so, and such an act so arbitrary had occurred, he certainly would see that no University authorities would carry on activities in that form.

"I know the case so well that the student in question is my own son," said Mr. McKeown, warmly. The boy was being deprived of his expected course at the University, he added. The Premier told Mr. McKeown to write to him, and that he would make inquiries.

Bill Is Explained.

In respect to the bill itself, Mr. Ferguson explained that the graduates would have the right to name a panel from which the Government could select names for the Board of Governors.

Both Hon. Manning Doherty, Farmer Leader, and W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, thought it might be better if a fairly large number of names were selected by the graduates, from which the Government would be compelled to choose eight.

The Premier replied that this took away authority from the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, charged with the responsibility for the University. He did not think, under such circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council should be obligated by a lesser body to select certain names. There were four vacancies on the Board of Governors now, he added, and two of these should be filled by reappointments for the good of the University. The bill passed second reading.

LEGISLATORS TO FORM ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ONTARIO HIGHWAYS

Bill Establishing Department of Health Is Passed in Legislature

OTHER MEASURES ADVANCE

Second reading was given yesterday in the Legislature to the Government measure providing for the establishment of a Highway Advisory Board consisting of three members of the House. A protest was entered by Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell) against considering such an important bill on a Friday afternoon and when the former Minister of Public Works and Highways, Hon. F. C. Biggs (U.F.O., North Wentworth) was not in his seat. The Premier, however, insisted on the bill going through, promising that members would be permitted to discuss the principle of the measure in the committee stage.

To Encourage County Roads.

In explaining the bill Mr. Ferguson said that the Government was going to pay particular attention to local needs in highway matters. He hoped to encourage the system of county highways. The Government had no thought of abandoning the Provincial highways, as press reports had indicated, but it was going to pay more attention to local needs. He hinted that possibly greater encouragement would be given local needs than was now given.

Sam Clarke (Liberal, West Northumberland) approved of the bill and declared that the local roads were of the greatest value. He could see no harm in the proposed committee scheme. Edmond Proulx (Liberal, Prescott) said he hoped this advisory committee would not have the right of overruling the engineers of the department. The Premier replied that it would not. He hoped also the committee would not consider the political color of the counties it visited.

Several Government measures were put through second reading yesterday, including the Stallion Enrolment Act, which reduces the enrolment fee to \$2 and abolishes the inspection fee, except the special inspection, which is to cost \$10.

No Separate Minister.

The act to establish the Department of Health was passed, the Premier reiterating his former statement that there was no present intention of appointing a separate Minister to preside over this department. The idea was to co-ordinate the various health activities under one head.

Mr. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, said the Government should consider a long time before it increased the number of Cabinet Ministers.

As a part of the scheme of co-ordination, another act, transferring dental and medical inspection in schools from the Education Department to the Health Department, was given second reading. All this inspection will be done by the consent and under the supervision of the Department of Education, but the nurses would be under the Department of Health.

Various public bills introduced by private members passed second reading. One, sponsored by Hon. F. G. Macdiarmid (Conservative, West Elgin), increases the assessment exemption for householders on income tax to \$3,000. Another bill introduced by the same member provides that advance polls shall be open in the evenings for municipal elections.

A. C. Garden (Conservative, West Hamilton) moved the second reading of several bills, and when asked to explain them, did so by the simple expedient of reading them. When the Premier asked him, after reading one bill, what it meant, Mr. Garden asked to have the bill stand, so that he could obtain an explanation of the bill from the City Council of Hamilton. All the bills go to the Municipal Committee of the House for consideration.

SHRINKING REVENUE FROM WAGERS TAX REVEALED IN HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Raney Is Given Figures for Years 1922 and 1923

HOME BANK REFERENCE

In short order the Government disposed yesterday of a score or more of the 43 questions standing on the order paper, the Premier admitting, in answer to Mr. Kemp, that there had been discovered cases of theft and defalcation in the Government service. To seven subsequent questions asking for details, however, the Premier replied that it was not in the public interest to make the information known.

Race-Track Tax Receipts.

Two of the questions, by Hon. W. E. Raney and J. G. Lethbridge, elicited surprising totals with respect to revenues from race-track taxation. To Mr. Raney the Provincial Treasurer reported that in 1922 and 1923, respectively, \$2,212,000 and \$1,821,963 had been raised by tax on wagers at the race-tracks; and that the total amounts wagered at tracks from 1920 to 1923 was \$42,164,000, \$56,778,000, \$44,244,000 and \$36,439,000.

Mr. Widdifield's question referred to the daily tax on race-tracks and the answer was that since 1911 \$3,353,664 of revenue had been raised by this method.

Mr. Raney also sought light on the details of ownership of Ontario Power Company stock, and received the answer that the Province did not hold the stock, and that the Hydro Commissioners, in whose names it was vested, held none in their own right.

Mr. Fenton wanted to know if members of the present Government occupied living apartments in the Parliament Buildings, and received a negative answer, excepting in the cases of Hon. G. S. Henry and Hon. John S. Martin, who in exceptional circumstances occupied sleeping apartments.

Status of Sam Squire.

Two questions referred to the appointment of Sam Squire, the Conservative organizer, who succeeded W. A. McLean as Deputy Minister of Public Works, and it was admitted that Mr. Squire was not a qualified engineer nor a graduate of any university. Although Mr. McLean did not come under the Superannuation Act, the Premier intimated in his replies that provision was to be made for him.

Answering Mr. Carmichael, the Premier said that the total amount spent on the Chippawa development plant was more than \$73,000,000 to date. Approximately 1,000 miles of rural transmission lines had been built, serving 3,919 rural customers and 5,408 hamlet customers.

To Mr. Sewell the Government said it had not estimated the cost to the Province of a liquor referendum.

The same member received the information that Officer Costello of the Provincial Police force was a brother of the Conservative candidate in South Renfrew, although there was no record as to whether he was a partner of Hon. T. W. McGarry. Neither was there record of whether Mr. Costello received the recommendation of his brother or Mr. McGarry, a former Conservative Provincial Treasurer.

Home Bank Case.

To Mr. Raney's question concerning the Home Bank case, Attorney-General Nickle construed as improper questioning the query: "Is it the opinion of the Attorney-General that the defendants are less likely to get a fair trial before a Judge than before a Judge and jury?"

Mr. Doherty received from the Minister of Agriculture the information that 3.15 was the percentage of arrears of interest or principal on loans due and owing for one month or more on October 31 last to the Agricultural Development Board.