

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

# Premier Is Astounded On Finding Civil Servants Are Playing Handbooks

*Startling Announcement Is  
Made on Floor of Legisla-  
ture by Head of Govern-  
ment, Who Proclaims Imme-  
diate Ban on All Public  
Employees and Officials*

## DETAILS DETECTIVE TO "GET" INVADER

*"Some One Visits These Build-  
ings and Solicits Bets From  
Employees," He Declares,  
and He Purposes Discovering  
Who It Is—Instant Dismissal  
Is Price of Indulgence*

Condemning the practice of betting with handbook makers as "too risky" to be tolerated around the Parliament Buildings, Premier Ferguson arose in the Legislature yesterday and, amid applause from all sides of the House, declared that vigorous steps would be taken to wipe out an evil which lately had been brought to his attention.

"The Government," he said, "proposes appointing an officer whose duty it will be to endeavor to ascertain who it is that has been mingling with civil servants soliciting wagers on horse racing." If such a person were found to be in existence, prosecution would follow. Furthermore, he announced, any civil servant found indulging in the practice of handbook betting would be relieved promptly of his duties at Queen's Park.

### And He Doesn't Mean "Maybe."

"I want to make this statement in a form in which it will reach not only the whole Civil Service, but the country at large," stated the Prime Minister in making the announcement. "It has come to my ears that from time to time some one visits these buildings and various offices and solicits bets from the employees—in other words, carries on a 'book' in and about the Service."

"Now, we have had too many examples of what has followed indulgence in this practice throughout Ontario. Only recently we had an unfortunate and serious thing occur in Hamilton. Every one knows of it, and we can cite innumerable cases.

### Puts Officer on Scent.

"I want to say on behalf of the Government, and I want this to reach every man in the employ of the Government: In the first place, I propose to put some officer at work to ascertain who it is, and if there is any way of prosecuting that man the Government proposes to do it. In the next place I want to say: If I hear of any civil servant who is indulging in that practice around these buildings or public offices he will be relieved of his office, and that very promptly, because I do not propose to take the risk inevitably involved in any man in the public service 'playing the ponies, or horses.'

"I have no objection to a man making a bet if he wants to go down to the races and do it. I have sometimes done that myself and I have paid the penalty. (Laughter.) But there is this nefarious practice, an insidious thing, and it is not only confined to the younger generation in the Service, but it is, I am told, growing very rapidly.

"I think the House will agree with the Government's attitude in this matter and will say that the proper thing to do is to put a stop to this practice at once, if such a thing is going on in the Service, as I am told it is."

## SESSION OF HOUSE IS BRIEF BUT BUSY

Many Minor Bills Are Advanced on Journey Toward Enactment

### RANGE OF BEVERAGE TAX

While the Legislature did not sit very long at Queen's Park Friday afternoon, the comparatively few members present made marked progress with the list of minor bills standing on the order paper for second reading and committee consideration. After moving a dozen or more items along a stage, the House adjourned early, to meet again on Tuesday, when H. Fisher, K.C., Liberal member for West Ottawa, will continue the Budget debate.

#### Regarding Stray Cattle.

The proposal of R. H. Kemp (Lincoln) to give authority for the prevention of cattle wandering at large on county highways was accepted favorably by the Premier as to principle, but there was some doubt in Government legal minds as to the best method of carrying out the proposal. After considerable discussion the matter was left to the Municipal Committee to straighten out.

#### Bills Advanced.

Other bills moved along a stage were: Mr. Mewhinney's bill to incorporate the Village of Ripley; the bill to incorporate North Bay as a city, which got second reading without discussion; the City of Toronto's bill confirming the \$50,000 grant to the Art Gallery and giving power to borrow \$434,000 for municipal purposes; Mr. Nickle's Surrogate Courts Act; the Paipoonge and Town of Harriston bills, the latter of which confirms an arrangement with a local company; Mr. Nickle's Landlord and Tenants Act, which was amended to give jurisdiction to County Court or District Court Judges instead of a Judge of the Supreme Court, and the amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act respecting undeserving mothers.

After the House rose yesterday Premier Ferguson made it clear that his beverage tax proposal included a small impost on all forms of soft drinks, including 4.4 beer.

## PREMIER FERGUSON SETS IRELAND FREE

All Party Leaders Exonerate  
Conservative Whip of  
Blame

### TRIFLING SALE OF GOODS

With leaders of all parties in the House expressing their concurrence, Premier Ferguson announced that next week an act will be introduced into the Legislature protecting from all penalties and punishments William H. Ireland, Conservative Whip, and member for West Hastings, for a breach of the act respecting the matter of members of Parliament receiving moneys from Government funds.