

Tuesday, Feb. 22nd

Premier Scores Proposal To Change Hours of Voting

In the Legislature yesterday, Premier Ferguson took exception to what he termed the "checkerboard style" of handling municipal legislation.

F. G. McBrien, Conservative member for Toronto Brockton, had moved second reading of a bill to amend the Consolidated Municipal Act, to the extent of advancing the hours of municipal polling one hour—that is, from 10 to 6; to make it unnecessary for the City Treasurer in cities of 200,000 and over personally to sign civic debentures; and to give municipalities more control over obstructing signs.

Premier Ferguson at once ex-

pressed the opinion that the bill should be referred to the Municipal Law Committee, stating that never a legislative session came round but that some effort was made through private bills to change the hour of voting. In fact, he said, Toronto—if he remembered—had been the city that had been responsible for the present hours of voting.

Hon. W. E. Raney thought the "voting-hour" clause should be deleted in the House. Mr. Ferguson preferred to have it go before the Municipal Law Committee, declaring that if the committee's opinion did not coincide with his he would look on Mr. Raney's support subsequently in the House.