

O.T.A. Penalties Dropped.

When the House in Committee started its final labors on the liquor bill at 10 o'clock Hon. Mr. Raney, noting that the group of sections to be dealt with detailed penalties and procedures, pointed out that a large number of enforcement clauses of the Ontario Temperance Act, which might well be included in the new liquor bill, were not there.

The fact, said he, that these valuable enforcement laws were not to be found in the measure might be the result of the draftsman paying more attention to the Alberta law than to previous Ontario legislation. At any rate, said he, enforcement clauses of the O.T.A. had been "dropped either deliberately or inadvertently."

He continued to cite several sections of the O.T.A. which, if included in the new bill, "would strengthen the Government's hand."

First he referred to a clause dealing with the employment of "spotters" and providing that such "spotters" be exempted from conviction when they consumed liquor in enacting a scheme to secure a conviction against a vendor.

"I am not much in sympathy with such ideas," Mr. Ferguson declared.

Distaste for Spotters.

Mr. Raney replied that he, too, had a distaste for the use of "spotters." But there were two recognized methods of detecting bootleggers, the "police method of raiding" and the "detective method." "As I say," he continued, "I always had a distaste for the use of detectives. But I was always told by Mr. Flavell, Chairman of the board, and officers of the department that it was impossible to enforce the law without the use of detectives.

"Surely you are not expecting to get rid of bootlegging right away," he went on. "Why should you overlook such enforcement clauses?"

"I object to paying people to commit a breach of the law," said Mr. Ferguson. "I prefer, for a year at any rate, to appeal to the good sense of the public. If we have to resort to more extreme measures, the Government is prepared to do it."

Mr. Raney next drew the committee's attention to a clause of the O.T.A. empowering Government vendors to retain medical prescriptions for inquiries. If a prescription was not bona fide the person presenting it could be arrested without warning. There was nothing in the Government-control bill on this point, he said.

Nor was there anything in the new measure, as in the O.T.A., he added, dealing with specific civil suits in the case of a fatal accident involving the consumption of liquor.

Other Clauses Left Out.

Nor was there a section, as in the O.T.A., saying that persons having liquor illegally must state the source of that liquor. Such a clause was certainly valuable in law enforcement, said he."

Mr. Ferguson stated that he had discussed such an idea with prosecuting officials and they had thought that it was useless.

"If you gave it consideration and jettisoned it I'm not arguing it further," said Mr. Raney. "I simply wanted to know if it had been considered."

He continued to point out that people might have liquor consignments made under fictitious names and that a clause in the O.T.A. specially dealt with this feature of illegality. Mr. Ferguson thought that this and other sections of the O.T.A. were covered in the general ruling that persons under the new act had to show that they had received legally and held legally liquor obtained legally from the Government.

Mr. Raney referred to the clause of the O.T.A. empowering the Government to prescribe certain areas by proclamation and govern the use of liquor in those areas. This was a power which might be necessitated by labor disturbances, said he, and might very well be included in the new act.

"There's something in that," said Mr. Ferguson. "Frankly, I think that ought to be in the act."

Mr. Raney recalled a provision in the O.T.A. to prevent one Magistrate from interfering with another in handling liquor cases. Why was this not in the new bill? Government lawyer members declared such interference was prohibited by a general law of the land. Mr. Raney thought not. Attorney-General Price made a note of the matter for a further inquiry.

Stick to Old Laws.

The Progressive Leader pointed out that the Government would find it advisable to "stick to laws that have been through the mill instead of drafting new laws which might open difficulties in court." It was with this in mind that he made the suggestions.

Continuing, he questioned the Premier to find out what status was held by standard hotels under the new act.

Premier Ferguson replied that the status held under the O.T.A. was to be "reproduced" in the control bill. He held up a statement of regulations governing standard hotels, and stated that this was to be introduced into the new measure before the committee rose.

As the committee continued its work Mr. Raney raised objections to the phraseology of sections prohibiting the sale of liquor to minors and providing penalties for such sales. The Government could not see that the wording of the sections clashed, as he suggested.

E. Proulx (Liberal, Prescott) voiced his objection to the provision that police officers might conduct searches without warrants.

When the committee dealt with the section providing for the jailing of bootleggers, William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria) pointed out that "jail won't bother such persons."

The remaining sections were rapidly passed, and the committee rose shortly after 11.25 and the House adjourned.

GODFREY DEFENDS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Minister Objects to "Sob-sistering" Criticism of Institution

In the Legislature last night, Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Minister of Health and Labor, took strong exception to what he termed the "sob-sistering" criticism of the Victoria Industrial School at Mimico. Dr. Godfrey's defense of the institution, which he said was the best-staffed of any school of its kind in the Province, was precipitated by private members' references in discussion of a main estimates vote to the school, to Wednesday's civic investigation of charges brought against the institution by parents of the boy, Brawn, who died last May.

Dr. Godfrey made it plain to the House that they were not "good" boys that were handled in this school, but "hand-picked bad boys." "People should not forget that," he said. In this connection, he mentioned the fact that some time ago, Deputy - Superintendent Pettinger was shot in the side by one of the boys, and was still suffering from the wound. He had no desire, he said, to go into the family history of the Brawn boy, but he would state emphatically that the lad had every consideration and attention from the school up to the time of his death.

Dr. Godfrey said that for some reason or other the school had always been made a target for "sob-sistering" criticism that was both unreasonable and unjust. He charged that when "some people" (the press) had nothing else to write about, they took a "whirl" at the Mimico School.