

Mr. Lethbridge referred to newspaper clippings to show, as he maintained that brewery and distillery interests had expected the act to be a sales-promotion act, and for that reason had thrown their support solidly behind it. He referred to evidence adduced under the Customs investigation which showed that liquor interests had contributed to election campaign funds, with "defeat of prohibition" their one great aim.

"Well done," interjected William H. Edwards, Toronto-Bellwoods.

Mr. Lethbridge charged, further, that the Liquor Control Board had carried out the sales promotion idea from its very inception.

Strategic Centres.

"I am told," he said, "that in locating their stores they have sought sales promotion, by locating the Government liquor shops and brewery warehouses at strategic selling centres, just as the chain-selling propositions would have done."

Then again, he declared, the board had sought sales promotion by cutting prices on hard liquors and imported wines. The inevitable effect of this price-cutting, he asseverated, was sales promotion.

As further evidence of sales promotion, he read numerous newspaper clippings, stating specific cases in which men had bought more than 1,000 bottles of beer in addition to considerable hard liquor in less than a month. "I might go on," he declared, "and show how other provisions were made for sales promotion such as increase in quantities that might be purchased, extension in the hours of sale, allowing sale from breweries as well as brewery warehouses, allowing direct sale and delivery by brewers.

"The number of permits issued shows the measure of co-operation," he said, referring to a phrase in the Speech from the Throne. "Merchants can testify, for they know that every dollar that goes for liquor is a dollar less to be spent for the goods they have to sell. Instead of the Speech from the Throne commending these indications of public support and co-operation with the liquor selling system, they are a cause of regret. All goes to emphasize the folly and the wrongness of the Government of our Province engaging in a business the success of which is commensurate with the damage done to our citizens.

Opposed to New System.

"With Government control of public utilities I am in heartiest sympathy. To the Government sale of intoxicating liquors which is hurtful to the community I am absolutely opposed.

"If I were allowed to make a suggestion it would be that the quantity a person could purchase on his permit would be specifically stated in the act, and on his permit. No strong man, no matter how strong, should have the right to permit a man to buy 1,000 bottles in a single month."

Applause for Premier.

Premier Ferguson took the floor at 8.45 o'clock, amid a prolonged rumble from Government desks.

"I would like to make my first word in this discussion one of congratulation to my honorable friend from West Middlesex on his selection as the Leader of one of the groups in this Legislature," he began, praising Mr. Lethbridge as a man ever conscientious and serious in his attitude toward his public duties.

Striking out a moment later, in dissection of the Progressive Leader's address, the Premier continued: "I notice he attempted, in a half-hearted way, to repudiate any suggestion of an alliance between himself and his forefathers on the right (the Liberals). Knowing his disposition as I do, it is difficult for me to accept that statement at its face value.

"While he may not align himself with the Liberal party, I am sure you will see my friend from South Ontario (Mr. Sinclair, Liberal Leader) and my friend from West Middlesex as political Siamese twins," Mr. Ferguson said.

Says Agriculture Aided.

Defending the Government against the Progressive Leader's criticism of scanty reference to agriculture in the Speech from the Throne, the Premier said that no Government in the history of the Province had been of so much assistance to agriculture or exerted so great an effort in behalf of that industry as had the present Administration.

Turning his attention upon Mr. Sinclair, the Premier dropped the milder tone with which he had attacked the criticisms of the Progressive spokesman, and waxed openly sarcastic.

The Liberal Leader, the Premier found, had been in a "rather petulant, restless mood this afternoon." The Liberal Leader had apparently treated nothing in serious vein and his address had demonstrated a remarkable want of useful and constructive criticism.

Remarking that the British system of government accorded a definite position to an official Opposition, which was supposed to offer constructive criticism, or even arouse the public into action which would impel the Government to launch needed legislation, Mr. Ferguson said that the Opposition Leader had failed to fulfil this capacity.

Continuing his attack on Mr. Sinclair's address a few hours earlier, the Premier declared: "Year after year his speeches are becoming more attenuated in ideas. This year his utterance seems to be suffering almost from pernicious anemia."

A Conservative member interjected: "Feed him liver."

Publicity to Public Affairs.

Replying to Mr. Sinclair's criticism of the changed editorial policy of The Ontario Gazette, to allow Ministerial reports and speeches to be printed in the Government publication, Mr. Ferguson said the effort was intended to give the fullest possible publicity to public affairs, in a concise, authentic and official manner.

He challenged the Liberal captain to point to anything of a partisan nature which had appeared in the columns of The Gazette.

Before proceeding with his main points of debate, Mr. Ferguson made reference to the celebration in 1927 of Canada's Diamond Jubilee, the visits to Canada of the Prince of Wales, Prince George and Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, and to the trans-Canada tour recently of Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery, and included in his remarks mention of the celebration last year of the centenary of the foundation of the present University of Toronto.

Changing the Constitution.

Mr. Sinclair had spoken of changes in the Constitution. "But," said the Premier, "no structural or fundamental amendments can be made unless all the Provinces agree, and the British Government assent." There had been, he recalled, some 36 minor amendments to the Constitution, and only five times in 60 years was it necessary to send legislation to the British Parliament with a request for enactment.

"My honorable friend," the Premier addressed Mr. Sinclair, "was careful to avoid stating his position whether he would support the demands of the Federal Government."

Provincial Power Rights.

Then the Prime Minister turned to the subject of water power development, "Ontario," said he, "has been insisting that the water powers of this Province in any river are property that belong to the Province of Ontario. Gradually there has developed at Ottawa the disposition to dispute that, and recently it has come almost to a head.

"May I give you one instance. Last spring the Hydro Power Commission filed plans at Ottawa to develop further power at the Sault. The answer from the Public Works Department was: 'The plans may be all right, but what right have you got to develop water powers? The opinion here is that it is vested in the Dominion Government.'

"From time to time there have been these signs from the Dominion Government and the Province of Ontario and other Provinces have been preparing themselves for the day when the issue had to be decided.

A Delicate Situation.

"Four or five years ago the Hydro Power Commission asked the right to develop power on the St. Lawrence. We have never been able to get any answer. The Province, through the Commission, has asserted the right continuously and emphatically, and will continue to do so, to the ownership of the water powers in this Province. Ontario has been getting into a delicate position. It was suggested at Ottawa that this question would have to get into the courts some day if the Dominion Government was not prepared to concede the Province its rights. If we undertook the development and the Dominion Government interfered we'd get into the courts. And if the Dominion Government undertook the development and we interfered we'd be in the courts. And that would be a most unfortunate kind of litigation, for the decision would only deal with the features and points involved in that particular development. So it was felt that there should be—and the Provinces and the Dominion Government agreed—a series of questions and have them submitted for judicial determination. My understanding was that the Provinces would be consulted before anything was done, and it came as a very great surprise to me when on the 18th of January, without reference to the Provinces—ignoring our rights and representations—a series of questions were framed and submitted to the Supreme Court. Naturally this Province protested. The answer was, if we had any kind of representation to make we'd receive consideration."

Making Representations.

"Did you make any representations?" asked Mr. Sinclair.

"They're being made," replied the Premier. "I have grave doubt whether the court can answer the questions. They are broad, vague. To answer at least one, in my opinion, the Judges would have to write a treatise on the British North America Act. What the Province desires—and I submit should go before the court—are questions wherein our rights would be defined, not in an uncertain way—questions framed in a way which we all agree on."

Ontario, he declared, didn't propose to relinquish one item of what it claimed as its right, and the Government would "carry on" and "protect the people" until some solution was reached.

He referred to the Gatineau power contract, a thirty-year affair. "We hope to have the St. Lawrence power development by then," he said, "but we are now just about where we started."

"A little less politics and more business," interjected Mr. Sinclair.

Will Get Before Courts.

"I agree with you," said the Premier. "That's the reason we are anxious to have the matter go before the courts in the proper form, and it will get before the courts in the proper form in one way or another."

As for the Ottawa River situation, said he, Quebec and Ontario, taking a broad outlook, could reach an agreement. "But again," said he, "we are held up by the Dominion Government."

Referring again to the St. Lawrence development, he continued: "On the Advisory Committee the dominating figure is Clifford Sifton, who, I venture to think, is not very seriously imbued with the doctrine of public ownership and public

rights." There were, he went on, no records of what the deliberations of that committee had been. It had met three times in three days, but not long enough to hear any complete argument."

Mr. Ferguson next referred to the way he had been questioned by the press for information regarding his stand in the St. Lawrence waterways project. He suggested that the Dominion Government be asked to explain matters.