

## INFORMATION SOUGHT ON FINAL DISPOSAL OF O.T.A. CONVICTION

**Liberal Leader Is Curious About Case of Dental Surgeon**

**WILL GET THE FACTS**

Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair secured from Attorney-General Price yesterday in the Legislature the assurance that all correspondence and records relating to the O.T.A. conviction around June, 1927, of Dr. Garnet Fraser of Madoc—his subsequent appeal from conviction and the final disposition of the case—would be tabled in the House. Mr. Sinclair's motion, with this objective in view, carried without opposition from the Government. The Attorney-General disclaimed any personal knowledge of the facts of the situation.

In introducing his motion Mr. Sinclair spoke but briefly. Dr. Fraser, he told the House, was a dental surgeon who had previously been twice convicted for Ontario Temperance Act offenses.

"Apparently," said he, "he was carrying on a sideline to his business of extracting teeth. At least he was giving trouble to the police."

"You mean," interrupted Premier Ferguson, "the police were giving trouble to him."

### Banquet Recalled.

"A battle was being waged between them," Mr. Sinclair proceeded. "One night when a banquet was being given to the honorable member for North Hastings (Hon. J. R. Cooke) Dr. Fraser was apprehended by the Provincial Police on his way from Belleville to Madoc. I don't know if his trip was connected with the banquet and I don't care. I don't even know whether he was going to the banquet."

At any rate, Mr. Sinclair said, the police had seized the liquor found in Dr. Fraser's car. Some time elapsed before the case came to trial, and when it did the doctor was convicted. As it was his third offense under the O.T.A. he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and fined \$100. The sentence was appealed, said the Liberal Leader. Again, a considerable period elapsed before the appeal was heard. The Junior Judge at Belleville heard it, in the absence of the Senior Judge. He dismissed the appeal.

"But," said Mr. Sinclair, "the court records indicated that the jail sentence was remitted, and the fine, instead, had been increased to \$200."

Just how this had been accomplished, in view of the act's stipulation of a jail term for a third offense, Mr. Sinclair did not know. A lot of other people were puzzled too. At any rate Dr. Fraser did not serve his sentence. The Crown Attorney had, he understood, consulted the Attorney-General regarding the matter. If this was so, the public should be made aware, he contended, of what actually transpired, and the case should be given "the widest publicity."

### A Brief Rejoinder

Col. Price was even briefer than Mr. Sinclair in reply. He had no objection whatever, he said, in tabling all correspondence relating to the case. It had

been handled by his department in a purely routine way, he said, and he had no knowledge of the facts. He stressed the point, however, that, about the time of this case, his department, in view of the early coming into force of the Liquor Control Act, with its more drastic penalties, had laid down a general rule, applicable to the whole Province, that appeals from O.T.A. convictions should be left to the local judiciaries, and should not be fought unless there was some distinct point of law directly involved.

"No purpose in it," commented Premier Ferguson.

## THIRD READING GIVEN TO SIXTEEN BILLS

**Sinclair Suggestion Leads to Change in Act Amendment**

### BOYS' WELFARE CRITICISM

Machinery of the Ontario Legislature whirred at a terrific rate yesterday afternoon. As a result, 14 bills were given second reading; 17 passed Committee of the Whole House, and 16 others reached that state of advancement—third reading—where now only Royal assent stands between them and actual law.

#### Amendment Altered.

The Government, agreeing to a suggestion from Liberal Leader Sinclair, altered its amendment to the Public Service Act, so that a civil servant must be 25 years in the service and at least 60 years of age before being entitled to pension, instead of 55 years of age, as stipulated in the original draft of the measure.

Mr. Sinclair also made an amendment to the Boys' Welfare Home and School Act a target for some criticism, asking why municipalities should be "loaded" with the responsibility of contributing to the keep of boys from within their boundaries who are located at the Bowmanville institution. In reply Premier Ferguson said that only in cases where parents were unable to pay the charges were municipalities held responsible. He said that amounts paid per capita were trifling. These, he stressed, were imposed solely to provide for operating expenses. Inasmuch as the majority of lads would come from Toronto it was unfair, he contended, to tax the Province generally for their keep and schooling.

#### Given Third Reading.

Bills which were given third reading by the House were as follows: To amend the Public Health Act; to amend the Mothers' Allowances Act; to amend the Succession Duties Act; to amend the Lakes and Rivers Act; to amend the Landlord-Tenant Act; to amend the Colonization Act; the Lac Seul Storage Act; the new Toronto Act; the Municipality of Shuniah Act; the Port Hope Act; the Town of Waterloo Act; the City of Brantford Act; the City of Galt Act; the City of Hamilton Act; the Town of Sudbury Act; the Church of Holy Trinity Act; the Toronto Trinity College Act; the Sacred Heart College of Sudbury Act; the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company Act; the Rockland Separate School Board Act.

## "Ballot" Commission Endorsed by House

On motion of Premier Ferguson, seconded by Attorney-General Price, the Ontario Legislature yesterday adopted a resolution endorsing the Government's action in issuing a Royal Commission to Mr. Justice Magee and Mr. Justice Hodgins to inquire into the South Ottawa "wandering ballots" mystery.

Before the orders of the day were called yesterday the Prime Minister explained that there had been some difference of opinion between the Commissioners as to whether the Government had had the authority to issue a Commission while the Legislature was sitting. Mr. Ferguson said that both he and Liberal Leader Sinclair believed the Cabinet had had a perfect right to do so; but, in order to be on the safe side, so to speak, he would ask the House to approve of the Government's action.

## CHANGES PROPOSED IN INSURANCE ACT

**Will Make Ontario Legislation Uniform With That of Other Provinces**

In an important act to amend the Insurance Act, which he introduced to the Legislature, yesterday, Attorney-General William H. Price seeks, among other things, to remove certain uncertainty in the existing law regarding accident and sickness insurance and disability benefits in life policies, and to make Ontario legislation uniform with the four Western Provinces.

Identical amendments, Col. Price told the House, are already before the Legislatures of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia.

The amendment also removes a restriction imposed a year ago when fraternal societies were authorized to write endowment insurance, and strikes out from the present act the respective statutory fees for agents, brokers, special brokers and adjusters' licenses, and provides that hereafter such fees, like all other fees payable under the act, shall be prescribed by Order-in-Council.