

eral Government ceases to make its contribution, or in any other way fails to live up to its agreement with the Province.

The Prime Minister explained that there was some doubt as to the constitutional validity of the Dominion legislation. In reply to Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell) he stated he had no "special knowledge" of any court action by the Province of Quebec to establish whether the Federal law was ultra vires or not.

W. G. Medd (Progressive, South Huron) asked whether pensions payments were to be retroactive, and Mr. Ferguson explained that under the Federal law it made no difference whether a man delayed application for his pension. If granted him, he would get it from the time the act came into force, provided, of course, that he was the required 70 years of age at the time.

Alex. Mewhinney (Liberal, North Bruce) appealed to the Government to get the act in operation as soon as possible. In reply, Mr. Ferguson reiterated his earlier statements that as soon as the machinery was ready it would be set in motion. Provision had been made in the act, he explained, for payment by the Provincial Treasury in case the law was working before

Nov. 1—the start of another fiscal year—as he hoped it would be.

Tuesday - March - 26th

FINGERPRINT BUREAU FOR ONTARIO POLICE IS FORECAST BY PRICE

No Opposition Raised to Second Reading of Constables Bill

BRITISH POLICING SYSTEM

Establishment at Queen's Park in the near future of a central fingerprint and criminal record bureau was forecast to the Ontario Legislature last night, by Attorney-General William H. Price, during his address on second reading of his bill to amend the Constables' Act.

Colonel Price pointed out that at the present time the Province has no fingerprint system at hand, and whenever the occasion arises, must resort to the municipalities for information and aid of this type. The bureau he has in mind may, he inferred, take a little while to work out, but when established, would in his opinion, go a long way toward achieving the goal of general law enforcement co-operation that is the primary aim of his Constables' Act amendments.

Opposition Approves.

There was no opposition to second reading of the bill. Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive, Brant County, appeared to voice the unanimous approval of the Opposition groups, when he not only commended the principle of the act, but contended that Colonel Price should go farther, and not only make the High County Constables of the Province subject to Provincial Police jurisdiction, but all highways traffic officers as well.

Premier Ferguson, the only other House member to speak to second reading, claimed that the chief aim of the measure was to build up a system of police organization that would be Provincial-wide one that would not only make for better law enforcement, but would effect better law observance without the enforcement. The measure, as explained by the Attorney-General, will bring all present High Constables under the control of General Victor Williams, Provincial Police Commissioner, and will authorize the Province to appoint (at its expense) High Constables in all counties now without them. Answering suggestion that the Province through this bill was again stepping on the toes, so to speak, of the municipalities, Mr. Ferguson explained that while the law at the present time requires these municipalities to appoint

officers, only eleven have done so to date, and there apparently is no way of getting after them. The public, he contended, had got in the habit of phoning the Provincial officers in time of trouble, for the very good reason that in many cases the High Constable had come to be looked upon in effect as a necessary evil. As examples, he recalled the case of one such officer who was 82 years of age, and of another official who could do nothing but look after the courthouse and "never got out on the job."

Surveys Department Work.

Colonel Price gave the House a very comprehensive survey of the work of the Provincial Police Department, tracing its remarkable expansion from the days when "Joe" Rogers and a half-dozen detectives ran criminal investigation, down to the present day, when a staff of 230 officials are required to meet the needs of the general public. At the very outset of his remarks, Colonel Price explained that the Government had considered it advisable not to have the new act proclaimed immediately, but that it should be held over until conferences could be arranged between headquarters and the various County Councils involved, to decide the best time for its application in their cases. In other words, the act is to come in, county by county.

The Attorney-General referred some length to the trip of investigation made by General Williams last fall to Scotland Yard and Metropolitan Police Headquarters, in old London, and, while unable to reveal the contents of the report, the Commissioner had filed with him on his return, he indicated to the House sufficient to leave the understanding that the ultimate reorganization which he (Colonel Price) has in mind will be patterned extensively after British policing methods.

Colonel Price painted to the House a striking word-picture of the up-to-date police officer—a man who should "think" as well as mechanically execute his duties—a man who should prosecute, but never persecute—a man who should always give all his information to the court—a man who can not only walk the beat, but who has a thorough knowledge of why he is walking and what he is walking for. Discipline, he stated, was one of the main keys to the improvement of any force, and in this connection he noted "the continuous practices" pursued by General Draper to improve the Toronto force.

Urges Support for Draper.

"He," said Colonel Price, in speaking of General Draper, "should have the support of every citizen in carrying out his policy, regardless of what the citizen's viewpoint on any matter may be."

Colonel Price repeatedly stressed the need for more co-operation between the Provincial and county municipal authorities. Such co-operation had improved greatly in recent years, he stated, but the act before the House would, he maintained, advance that element by leaps and bounds. Newspaper editorial comment had, with few exceptions, backed the bill's principle, and it behooved the Legislature, he contended, to give it equally sympathetic consideration.

Tuesday - March - 26th

CLASSIFYING BEER AS A SOFT DRINK URGED BY PINARD

Ottawa Liberal Thinks It Should Be Sold Like Soda Water

PARTY MEMBERS CLASH

A vigorous plea for the classification of beer as a soft drink and for the sale of it in ordinary stores, just like ginger ale or soda water, was made in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon by J. Albert Pinard, Liberal M.P.P. for Ottawa East.

His appeal for a wide-open sale of beer and wine came during a lengthy and vigorous discussion, when the House

in committee was considering the amendments to the Liquor-Control Act.

And that discussion was one which again mirrored in dramatic fashion the "split" in the Liberal group in the House, their differences on the liquor question.

"Stick to Facts."

For just before the discussion ended P. W. Pearson (Liberal, North York) took exception to a statement by his colleague, Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell), and practically told his fellow-member to "stick to facts" in his speeches.

Mr. Pinard told the Government that it was certainly not selling beer at cost. "And I want to tell the Government this," said he. "If beer could be purchased without a permit, you would sell less booze. You should license stores to sell beer just like soda water or ginger ale. Try to encourage the drinking of soft drinks, and beer, to my mind, is a soft drink." He thought the act should be amended to that effect.

When Mr. Pinard referred to the sale of wine, Premier Ferguson observed: "This Government inherited the wine situation." As for the price of beer, said the Premier, the Government wasn't trying to make money out of it and the price was a matter for the Liquor Control Board's administration.

Mr. Pinard recalled utterances by K. K. Homuth (Conservative, South Waterloo). He referred to Mr. Homuth as "from Kitchener" or "from Waterloo." "Anyhow, it's all the same," said Mr. Pinard, "the sausage country."

Cuts "Hard" Drinking.

Mr. Belanger declared that it had been the deduction of temperance people that the use of beer and wine "cuts" the drinking of strong liquor.

But Mr. Pearson wanted to tell his colleague that no temperance man ever said that, and to remind him of "the facts," which were, said the North York member, that an increase in the drinking of beer and wine is marked by an increase in the drinking of spirits.

"Aw, no, no," said several members.

The discussion during the consideration of the amendments to the act chiefly centred on the proposal to allow the board to declare a rooming-house to be a public place when a roomer, occupant or owner was convicted under the L.C.A. Mr. Pinard objected to the possibility of penalizing all occupants of the house for the offense of one man. He suggested that if the Government wanted to "get the man" it should make a regulation whereby he could be "thrown out of the house." Or if it was after the house, why not the New York padlock law? he suggested. Or if it wanted to hit the bootlegger and the illegal drinker, said he, why not consider the Quebec regulation, whereby if a man is caught illegally drinking in a house, he is liable to seven days in jail?

Conviction for All.

Mr. Belanger objected to the manner in which the amendment was framed, pointing out that, with the house being declared a public place, roomers who a day before had liquor there legally might all be convicted following the board's ruling.

Mr. Ferguson and Attorney-General Price declared that the Government wanted to put the responsibility on the owner of the house to prevent unruly conduct. It was prepared to give consideration to Mr. Belanger's suggestion of a revision of the framing of the section. It was also suggested that a Magistrate, rather than the board, be the one who, in view of the conviction in the court, have the say as to whether or not the rooming-house was to be designated as a public place, and this is also being considered by the Government.

Separate Permits.

E. Proulx (Liberal, Prescott) thought that there would be a reduction in the drinking of liquor if there was a separate permit on which beer and wine might be bought.

"If your group will agree to anything," said Mr. Ferguson, "we'll consider it."

Mr. Pinard said that, "as the cornerstone of the Liberal Party," he could say that "the Liberals" were agreed. "Corner store," Mr. Ferguson suggested.

With the section in regard to rooming-houses standing for further consideration, the amendment was passed.