

Feb. 14th.

FERGUSON PROMISES FULL INVESTIGATION OF BROKERAGE CASES

Other Charges Are Possible
if Evidence Warrants,
He Says

"NO ONE WILL ESCAPE"

Seizure of Books and Fi-
nances Necessary, He
Explains

From Premier Ferguson the Ontario Legislature had the emphatic assurance yesterday that investigations in connection with the recent brokerage house "clean-up" will be as thorough as it is possible to make them, and that there will be a charge laid for every offense.

"I can assure you," said the Prime Minister, "that no one will escape who is guilty of a criminal offense."

Mr. Ferguson's declaration was by way of reply to an editorial in The Globe stressing Liberal Leader Sinclair's question as to why charges of conspiracy had been laid against the 12 brokers now on bail when charges easier to prove might have been preferred against them.

"Sound Reasons," He Claims.

"There were very sound reasons for our procedure," Mr. Ferguson told the House. "The moment there were disclosures that there was sufficient evidence to support a charge of conspiracy that charge was laid. The Attorney-General took action to get the men, and to get control of the finances of the brokerage houses. Action had to be prompt and contemporaneous if it was to be effective in all these matters. In the interest of the public these securities had to be conserved."

Because a charge of conspiracy had been laid, said the Prime Minister, was no reason why other charges would not be laid. "Conspiracy was the first charge," he added, "and as evidence develops to substantiate other charges, they will be laid against the individual brokers. There have been exhaustive investigations to see that the law is fully vindicated and the public protected."

Refers to Heron Case.

To illustrate his point, Mr. Ferguson referred to the Heron case, stating that the original charge was one of conspiracy, but when the accused had faced trial there were some 13 charges against him.

Liberal Leader Sinclair asked the Prime Minister if he wished the House to understand that the laying of the conspiracy charge had been necessary to seize the brokers' assets, when under the Security Frauds Prevention Act that very authority was available without any charge.

Mr. Ferguson said "No!" The evidence first disclosed had denoted conspiracy, and the Attorney-General's charge had been to break up the conspiracy. Seizure of the assets was almost simultaneous.