

March 1st.

# VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS BARRED FROM COURT UNDER BILL IN HOUSE

Attorney-General Cites John  
Berry and Sophie  
Cohen

## OBJECTION BY SINCLAIR

Attorney-General Price's "Vexatious Proceeding Act"—a bill designed, as Colonel Price puts it, "to stop those people who are constantly bringing court actions without any grounds for them"—was given second reading by the Ontario Legislature yesterday, with only one voice, that of Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair, being raised against it.

Colonel Price explained that the legislation sought to improve the administration of justice, and that, except for some phraseology that might be altered, the bill and its purport had been approved by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

### Quite Unnecessary.

The Attorney-General named John Berry and Sophie Cohen as two of the type of people the legislation sought to restrain. Mr. Sinclair told the House that the act was "going a long way" in even debarring Berry and Miss Cohen. He felt that such actions as Berry had from time to time brought to the courts would never have cropped up had some responsible solicitor had the say in issuing the writ. He felt that the legislation proposed by the Attorney-General would be quite unnecessary if the writ issuing were left to a solicitor, for without some grounds no solicitor, he argued, would attempt to bring action. In jocular vein, he recalled that Berry had "gone after" the Government, and had even on one occasion had appeared before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature, which had "finished" him in quick order.

Premier Ferguson observed that Berry's action, which had originally been brought against the City Hall authorities, didn't stop with the Government, but had been launched against the Lieutenant-Governor when the Government refused to "decapitate" City Hall officials. And from the Lieutenant-Governor Berry turned his attention to the Governor-General at Ottawa.

### Need for Restraint.

Mr. Ferguson said that the bill before the House was not intended to restrain legitimate actions. Nor was it unusual legislation, as Mr. Sinclair asseverated. Over in England there was a precedent for it. While indictments of the Berry kind did not happen every day, there was need, he felt, for restraining them when they did arise.

Russell Nesbitt (Conservative, Toronto-Bracondale), speaking from close familiarity with the Berry case, stated that the writ in the first place had been issued by a solicitor.

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# INDUSTRIAL BUREAU BEING CONSIDERED

Oshawa Suggestion Will  
Come Before Ontario  
Cabinet

The Ontario Government is considering favorably a proposal from the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce that a central bureau of information should be established to point out to manufacturers desirous of establishing plants in Canada, the benefits of Ontario.

The various Ontario municipalities would be expected to co-operate with the bureau in supplying information about their own localities.

The proposal has received the approval of the Ontario Associated Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, which presented it to the Government. Premier Ferguson has requested the Oshawa Chamber to prepare full information on the project, and to submit it to the Cabinet.

A recent conference with representatives of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce on the subject was attended by Premier Ferguson, Attorney-General Price, Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, and Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests.

At the conference, it was pointed out by the Chamber of Commerce that the Manitoba Industrial Board, backed by the Manitoba Government, had been doing much to persuade industries to locate in that Province.