

March 18th.

## 'PUBLIC NUISANCE,' FERGUSON'S TERM FOR COMMUNISTS

Speaks for Bill Requiring  
\$200 Deposit by  
Candidates

### WINE PERMITS DISCUSSED

That the Ontario Government is strongly opposed to the activities of Communists in this Province was made clear in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon by Premier Ferguson.

His statement on this subject came during debate on the proposal of second reading of the Government's amendment to the Election Act. This provides for a deposit of \$200 by all Provincial candidates.

In the course of his remarks in this regard Hon. Mr. Ferguson stated that the bona fide representative of a community would certainly be able to present the deposit, and that the measure was aimed at the man who was "a public nuisance."

#### Speaks of Reds.

"There has been growing up a communistic element in this Province," he stated, "and our duty is to prevent it from getting into a position of ascendancy."

Applause greeted this statement.

Second reading was given to the measure, which also includes a clause to do away with the provision whereby a would-be voter may get some one to vouch for him if his name is off the list, and so vote. This proposal brought lengthy discussion, but the principle was eventually carried with the bill.

Opposition members suggested that it might work a hardship in rural communities. The Premier maintained that it was aimed at the floating population of urban ridings.

#### L.C.A. Change.

Attorney-General Price's bill amending the Liquor Control Act to provide for, among other things, the sale of native wines on a permit basis passed Committee of the Whole House without dissent.

In reply to a question of Liberal Leader Sinclair, the Attorney-General stated that the Liquor Board would work out, by regulations, the matter of wine permits. Holders of present permits would, he intimated, be able to buy wines with them. A new type of permit, for the purchase of wines alone, might also be introduced at a cheaper price.

Premier Ferguson's Iron Ore Bounty Act also passed the committee stage. The Prime Minister requested that a bill to amend the Theatres and Cinematographs Act be referred back to the Legal Committee in order that it might hear representations regarding the proposed legislation from several public bodies.

#### Much Accomplished.

A quantity of business was done, when several second readings were given, when other measures were passed by the House in Committee, and when some Opposition questions were answered.

Among those given second reading was the amendment to the Legislative Assembly Act which would allow a five-year term for the Legislature.

The amendment to the Highway Traffic Act was also given second reading, Hon. Mr. Henry explaining that it could be dealt with conclusively in committee.

The Province received \$62,354.11 in revenue from the Burwash Industrial Farm during the past year, Hon. Lincoln Goldie, Provincial Secretary, told the Legislature.

He stated that during the year 1,439 prisoners were removed to the farm, that 1,217 were discharged, and that a total of 1,751 were maintained there. The per diem cost per prisoner was \$2.13. This did not include the cost of transportation to and from the farm.

It was asked what was the per capita cost of maintenance of patients in hospitals for insane in the Province. Mr. Goldie replied: "The cost varies at different institutions, conformably with certain local conditions, but the average cost per capita would be \$97.86."

## PROHIBITION UNION URGES LOCAL OPTION AND VOTING REFORMS

Deputation Waits Upon Attorney-General to Present Requests

### DISCUSSION FOLLOWS

County local option under the Liquor Control Act; the placing by the Ontario Government before the Privy Council of a stated case to determine the authority of the Province in the matter of licensing brewers and distillers; and the amending of the Liquor Control Act so as to restrict liquor stores from locating near schools and churches, were among the important points covered by resolutions which a deputation from the Ontario Prohibition Union laid before Attorney-General William H. Price at Queen's Park yesterday.

#### Deplores Stores Near Schools.

Rev. Dr. Kannawin of the Religious Education Department of the Presbyterian Church supported the resolution opposing the placing of stores in the vicinity of schools. Rev. John Coburn presented the request for county local option, and also stressed the need of a complete financial statement of the sales of all local stores. Rev. Dr. A. J. Irwin, Secretary of the Union, presented the request that the Ferguson Government go to the Privy Council with "a stated case." He also made various representations in regard to violation of the L.C.A. in the matter of advertising, and urged certain matters pertaining to general law enforcement.

The resolutions laid before the Attorney-General were passed at the recent Toronto convention of the Union. The deputation supporting them was representative of the churches and various temperance organizations, and included, in addition to those persons already named, Rev. Dr. MacLachlan, Rev. Dr. Scott of Hamilton, Rev. G. A. McLean of Danforth Baptist Church, Rev. Father L. Minehan, Oliver Hezzelwood, John Buchanan, Frank Magee, J. A. Austin, Mrs. William Pugsley, Mrs. Mill-Pettit and Mrs. Donoghue.

The Attorney-General's hearing was, in the language of the deputation, "a very cordial one," and a very free dis-

ussion of the various matters took place.

#### Electoral Reform.

Respecting electoral reform, the following was submitted:

"In view of the fact that an election is a very expensive undertaking, and is, or should be, undertaken only in order to ascertain the real wish of the majority of the citizens, we would recommend that:

"1. Redistribution of constituencies be in the hands of a non-partisan permanent Commission, which should meet only after the ten years' census is published, to adjust the boundaries of constituencies in accordance with that census.

"2. That application to be put on the voters' list shall be compulsory on all citizens within one month of their becoming eligible, and that no one may be added to the voters' list after the writs for an election are out, except those who had already applied and had been left off by error or otherwise, and those who have only become qualified within one month of the sitting of the Appeal Board; and in either case the applicant must appear in person, or application be made by some one having actual personal knowledge of the applicant, and such personal knowledge should not include the uncorroborated statement of a canvasser of any party or association directly affected by the result of the election.

#### Check on Voters' List.

"3. That, in order to keep the voters' list up to date and to avoid the pre-election rush of applicants, there be appointed, to be called the Registrar, a person in every municipality (either whole or part time), whose duties shall be to receive applications for registration as a voter; to investigate such application immediately; and, if correct, to add the applicant's name to the voters' list. He should also remove the names of all dead persons, and change the names of newly married women, of which the Registrar of Deaths and Marriages must notify him, and also remove the names of all those who move, when notified by the Registrar of the new district that the said person has applied for registration in his municipality.

"4. All challenged votes, on whatever ground they are challenged, should be put into a separate envelope and not counted until checked up by the permanent Registrar.

"5. Public schools and other public buildings should be available for non-seditious discussion of public questions to all candidates and their supporters.

"6. That, in view of the fact that it is quite possible for a party to lose seats in the Legislature while polling an increased vote in the Province, and vice versa, we would recommend that some system of proportional representation or transferable vote be adopted in order that the standing of the parties in Parliament shall more nearly represent the actual voting of the people."