

February 28.

# NO ELECTION LIKELY UNTIL JUNE OF 1934, DECLARES NESBITT

Toronto M.P.'s Motion on  
Voters' Lists Is Given  
Support

## NAMES OF DEAD REMAIN

Arguing that the present method of preparing Provincial voters' lists was inadequate, and costly, A. Russell Nesbitt (Conservative, Bracondale) was successful yesterday in his effort in the Legislature to have the whole matter referred to a special committee for consideration. Attorney-General W. H. Price, leading the Government, as Premier Henry is confined to his home with illness, agreed that the present system was open to improvement, and acceded to Mr. Nesbitt's request.

### Unnecessary Cost.

Having sponsored a revamping of the system in previous Legislatures, Mr. Nesbitt presented a mass of figures showing the unnecessary cost to the municipalities of having to prepare annually such lists. And under the present method thousands found themselves without votes, while thousands of persons who had died or moved from the constituency had their names still on the lists, he said. He gave one instance of a woman's name being on the list fourteen years after she had passed away, and stated that the name of Premier Henry's mother was still on the list, although she has been dead some considerable time.

The select committee named to go into the matter is to consist of: Premier Henry, Attorney-General Price; L. W. Freele, Middlesex West; A. E. Honeywell, Ottawa North; W. Morrison, Hamilton East; Mr. Nesbitt and W. G. Wilson, Niagara Falls (Conservatives); and W. E. N. Sinclair, representing the Liberals, and T. K. Slack, Dufferin, Progressive.

### No Election This Year.

In speaking to his motion for a committee, Mr. Nesbitt stated: "An

election will not be held this year, and probably will not be held until next June." In such event, some fourteen months would elapse from the time the assessors took the names of voters and the time of the elections.

Although the speaker indicated that there would be no early election, members of the Legislature, irrespective of party, showed keen interest in the subject. Because, even if there is no election until June, 1934, this is the last session in which the method could be changed in time to alter the make-up of the lists for the election.

"I am glad to associate myself with what the member for Bracondale has said," stated Mr. Sinclair. "Members of Parliament should be able to draft a complete as possible method of preparing the lists. It should also be as cheap as possible. There are many respects in which the voters' lists could be improved."

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, said the House was indebted to Mr. Nesbitt for having brought the matter up. "But I think it would be preferable if a bill was brought in. Many municipalities have emphatically objected to the cost. The committee which deals with this might also look over our Elections Act," he said.

"The motion is worthy of the consideration of the House," said Attorney-General Price. "We all agree that the voters' lists might be greatly improved. When the present method was instituted, it was supposed that the lists would be kept up to date. But people do not like having their names on the lists if they are going to be taxed, and they are taxed. Therefore the lists are very imperfect. The assessor only goes around certain periods of the year, and the lists cannot be kept up to date."

Mr. Sinclair's bill to amend the Municipal Act so as to allow persons whose names were left off the lists to vote, if they got a certificate from the Assessment Commissioner or City Clerk that their names were on the assessment rolls, was given its second reading. He had drafted it before he knew the whole question would be taken up, he said.