

to be a far greater insult to a term that has come down through generations and stands for the greatest of all British institutions to refer to this aggregation on the Treasury benches as a Government at all.

"We might very well shorten that title to the 'Hen' Government, and the metaphor would be quite appropriate, though I suggest it with apologies to that important, useful and noble bird. But this 'Hen' Government, having well feathered its nest upon the Treasury benches, is now sitting tight in a manner which would put to shame the instincts of any old Plymouth Rock," said Mr. Nixon.

"What about 'Nix'?" asked Colonel Price.

"Well, there may be a time when we can make that comparison," replied Mr. Nixon. "Last year the Premier referred to my statement that he should go to the country and receive endorsement as insincere. And said that while I talked election I was more or less of a hypocrite, not really wanting one. So the Premier now has the opportunity to show me up if he still thinks so, and accept this bill, which would mean that this is the last session of this Legislature," concluded Mr. Nixon.

Mr. McCrea Replies.

Mr. McCrea, in replying, stated: "The member from Brant makes it quite clear that, if he was remiss in his duty in 1930, he intends today to force a vote. One would also think, to hear him, that he had been prompted from outside to stage a political piece of strategy, to affect, if possible, the electors of the Province.

"We were all in agreement in 1930 that the Legislature had the power to extend the life to five years. There was no question by the member from Brant as to the power, and there was no question on this side as to the Legislature's power.

"The member from Brant raises the point that the bill which passed should not give this Legislature the right to continue for five years. We had an election in 1929, and it was considered sound practice in an election campaign to announce the policies to the people, and upon return to implement those promises.

"It is known that through the campaign of 1929 the Government had given consideration to extending the life of the Legislature. All Provinces except Ontario and Prince Edward Island had five-year terms.

Action of Mr. Ferguson.

"While it may be said that by some the legislation was passed first and subsequent elections intervened, the question is whether or not the public was informed that the legislation would be passed," argued Mr. McCrea. "The evidence is ample. Mr. Ferguson, in 1929, announced on behalf of the Government that, in his opinion, the term should be five years. He implemented that promise the first session.

"The legislation went through the House without opposition because all parties believed it to be carrying out the will of the people. Today it is suggested that it should not apply to this Legislature. To my mind it is apparent that that is an afterthought."

Mr. Hepburn and the member for Brant (Mr. Nixon) and others were making overtures to the C.C.F., said the Government spokesman. "The great national organizer, Mr. Massey, has been flirting with the C.C.F.," he declared, asserting that the bill before the House was an effort to gratify these parties, and the result of it would be the expenditure of a large amount of money."

"Elections cost money and it was the attitude of Mr. Ferguson to avoid this tremendous expenditure. In the opinion of the House four years was not long enough. Is there any good reason why the country should be plunged into the cost of an election?" he asked.

Tilts With Opposition.

T. P. Murray (Liberal, Renfrew South)—There were three-year terms before. What was the object of those elections? Was it because the Liberals were caught unprepared?

Mr. McCrea—The Governor-General could exercise his prerogative and in these cases did. But it was felt that elections were held too often.

Mr. Nixon—Wasn't it the announced policy of the Conservatives to go when the going was good for the Conservative Party?

Mr. McCrea—I think the Province has proved that the going is always good as far as the Conservatives are concerned.

Mr. Nixon—Try it next summer.

Mr. McCrea—Think of the expense.

Mr. Nixon—Then why not make it eight years?

Mr. McCrea did not believe this was a fair suggestion.

Mr. McCrea said that, assuming it cost each candidate so much, with two candidates in each constituency, the cost of an election would be \$400,000 to the candidates alone.

Mr. Nixon—You are assuming too much. There are to be only ninety seats.

Estimate of Costs.

Mr. McCrea—It is only an assumption.

He then estimated that \$600,000 more would be spent for advertising and between \$600,000 and \$700,000 would be spent by the Province on the election proper. "It would plunge the people into an expenditure of at least \$1,500,000, or perhaps \$2,000,000, parties, candidates and the Province."

There was no call for such an expenditure, he stated. "I think there are a considerable number on the other side of the House who hope that we will go the full five-year term.

"Mr. Ferguson announced the policy during the campaign of 1929," said Mr. McCrea, referring to speeches made by his former Leader at Norwood and "several other places," which he did not mention. The view of the House in 1930 was that there should be five-year terms, and that was still its view, he declared.

"So far as the followers of the present Premier are concerned in this House, the legislation placed on the statutes of the Province of Ontario by Mr. Ferguson will remain there," he concluded.