

The Ontario Legislature Week Ending March 19

Crowds gathered in the galleries of the Legislature on Thursday, to hear a continuation of debate on the Liquor Control Bill, enjoyed an unexpected feature in the first division of the House at this Session. It is not generally considered that the Ferguson government has a majority of anything like 70, but that is the way it worked out on this occasion. W. E. Raney divided the House on Hon. Dr. Monteith's motion for second reading of amendments to the Corporation Tax Act, and the result was a vote of 85 to 15 in favor. Liberals, except Blake Miller, of East Elgin, and William Newman, North Victoria, voted with the government, as did also the two U. F. O. members present: L. W. Oke, East Lambton, and Farquhar Oliver, South Grey. On account of decreasing revenue, the racing associations claim to be losing money, and the government is cutting the per diem tax on mile tracks from \$7,500 to \$5,000, the same as half-mile tracks. It reserves power, however, to increase the tax to \$10,000 if conditions warrant. Mr. Raney doubted the necessity for the cut, and debated the bill at some length.

Incidentally, the Progressive leader roused some merriment in the House by a tribute to the prime minister. When he referred to Mr. Ferguson "and other lawyers of repute," the Premier thanked him for the compliment. Mr. Raney said: "I do not mind complimenting the Prime Minister, I could compliment him upon being the most industrious man who ever occupied the Prime Minister's chair in Ontario, and I could compliment him as a great strategist, but I am not going to make him blush."

The debate and division on the Corporation Tax Bill encroached somewhat severely upon the control bill debate, and Premier Ferguson announced before adjournment that night sittings would be held all next week, except Friday. It is possible that second reading may come Monday or Tuesday, and discussion thereafter will be largely upon the specific clauses of the bill itself. In Thursday's discussion, T. Legault, (Lib., Sturgeon Falls) announced support of the bill, though also urging the advisability of selling beer by the glass, for the benefit of workmen. Leslie Oke (U. F. O., East Lambton) who stands by the prohibition plank in the U. F. O. platform, nevertheless complimented the government upon the good job it had made of the bill, in consequence of the mandate given last December by the people.

"I have given considerable study to the bill," said Mr. Oke, "and have tried in my own way to take it to pieces. I find that there are not many places in which I, as a layman, can improve on it. I say that as the people have given the government a tremendous mandate for a control policy, this government is to be congratulated upon the job it has made of formulating the policy which it has been empowered to effect. I think I can say that although the people of east Lambton turned down the control policy, since the people have seen fit to give the government so unmistakable a mandate for the policy, they will be loyal enough to stand behind the law in their district and see that every assistance is given in making it the greatest possible success."

Premier Ferguson's contribution to the debate was delivered on Tuesday, when he moved second reading of the bill. He emphasized the point that prohibitionists are not being asked to forego their convictions, but in view of the people's verdict to give the new legislation a fair chance, and also the government's determination that once means have been provided whereby citizens may obtain liquor for legitimate purposes, those who do not obey the law will be ruthlessly dealt with.

"I want to get it into the minds of the people of the province," he said, "that the Commission is going to run this business in the public interest and in the public service. We are not here to push the sale of liquor. We are here to restrict it within reasonable bounds, to eliminate all the abuses and excesses it is possible to eliminate. We are here to protect particularly the rising generation of this country from being poisoned in a manner and with the methods that have been in vogue for the last number of years. The bill represents the best judgment we have been able to bring to bear, and very careful study of the whole problem. It is a minimum of liberty with a maximum of restraint and penalty. It places in the hands only of those who can be entrusted to control themselves properly the

privilege of securing for their own use alcoholic liquors as a beverage.

As anticipated, Mr. Raney moved an amendment, but curiously enough it does not concern the principle of the bill. It merely proposes an expression by the House that powers given the control board to make regulations for administrative purposes should not cover provisions by way of substantive additions to the law. In other words, the government is accused of giving the Board too much power. Then, on Wednesday, J. G. Lethbridge, West Middlesex, one of Mr. Raney's supporters, moved a sub-amendment virtually declaring that the government is withholding certain powers from the Board. This amendment sets forth that the Board should have authority to employ and discharge subordinates without interference by the government of the day or members of the House. On this point Premier Ferguson explained: "In the last analysis, whether the board succeeds or not, this government must take responsibility for everything in connection with it. The desire of the government is to keep as free as it possibly can from suspicion of improper influence or activity in connection with administration of this law, and while we must have something to say about the total amount of expenditure, we give them the freest possible hand within that scope to select their officers and carry on administration of the Act." The amendments, of course, will be voted down in due course.

In the standing committee on agriculture, Wednesday morning, the members heard L. W. Pearsall, Dominion grader, and S. E. Todd, secretary of the Canadian Council of Meat Packers, on the subject of hog grading, and the latter made it known that the Dominion Government had been asked to call another conference of those who co-operated some half-dozen years ago in inaugurating the present system. Changed conditions, he intimated, have made it clear that the arbitrary differential of 10 per cent, originally fixed as between "selects" and "thick smooths" no longer represents the actual difference in quality. General adoption of the plan of buying and selling on grade has brought up the average of quality. Mr. Todd pointed out that Canadian packers are under great difficulties as result of the condition of the British market, but prices have been maintained, so far as the producer is concerned, and thanks to the United States market for live hogs and fresh pork the Ontario hog-raiser is probably safe until such time as the British market can be regained.

The annual report of the Ontario Provincial Police, tabled in the Legislature on Thursday, shows conditions throughout the province to have been good, on the whole, during the year. Gen. V. A. S. Williams, commissioner, reports to Attorney-General Price that "the public peace and order have been very little disturbed, with exception of a spasmodic outbreak of banditry, generally isolated and not continuous. The professional crook and law-breaker has given this province a wide berth. It is also pleasing to be able to report that there was no industrial trouble."

Deer hunters will enjoy a much longer season this year, as result of representations made to the Fish and Game Committee of the Legislature on Friday by Hon. F. G. Macdormid, West Elgin. The season was formerly November 5 to 20, but on ratification of the committee's recommendation will in future be November 1 to 30. This applies to the district south of the Mattawa and French Rivers. Of greater interest

to the general public is the prohibition absolutely of the sale of venison. This recommendation was killed by the Legislature last year, but will go to that body again, with the committee's endorsement. The committee decided against imposition of a gun license in all counties bordering on Lakes Erie and Ontario, but extended it to Halton, since a resolution from the county council suggested it. At present Lincoln, Wentworth, Welland and York have such law. The department will investigate charges of illegal export, commercialization of blinds, etc., in connection with duck-shooting at the Rondeau marshes.

Prosecutions under the O. T. A. numbered 4469, with 2890 convictions. Liquor was seized to the value of \$41,651 and 73 motor vehicles. The commissioner points out that there is a tendency to regard the O. T. A. as a law to be enforced only by the provincial police, and many complaints are sent to the department that ought to be investigated by the municipality concerned. Under the Highway Traffic Act, there were 491 prosecutions, resulting in 449 convictions, and Gen. Williams takes occasion to deprecate a tendency on part of some officers to prosecute for speeding rather than reckless driving. He also recommends a more severe penalty on conviction of persons driving a car when intoxicated. The present minimum penalty of seven days' imprisonment, he considers, is altogether too little punishment. Motor fatalities, 73, compared with 52 in 1925, were chiefly at crossings, and were due to reckless and negligent driving rather than excessive speed.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Farmers Sometimes Favored
If the Government is going to spend the money it is only fair that agriculture should have its share. Farmers are so considerate and so modest in their demands that "when they get things the cupboard is bare,"—Farmer's Sun. Not always friend. What about the Agricultural Colleges; the experimental farms; the agricultural representatives; the short courses for farmers' sons and daughters; the 7,000,000 pines for reforestation, the seeds distributed annually; and the numerous other privileges and opportunities provided for our farmer friends, at the public expense.—Acton Free Press.

The New Liquor Measure
The new government control liquor bill, which was made public last week, has been received in comparative silence. While it is being discussed, there appears to be a tendency in independent thinkers to grant that it appears to be a genuine effort to produce a more satisfactory law than that which we have labored under for the past few years. The penalties for infraction of the law are very severe and ought to have a marked tendency to discourage the ubiquitous bootlegger. Now that the heat of a political campaign is over, and calm consideration is possible, Mr. Ferguson seems at least to have gained the promise of this province to grant a fair trial to the new liquor law, and even to acknowledge that he may have been sincere in his effort to produce a workable and satisfactory measure.—Flesherton Advance.

Radio Listeners' Association
A Radio Listeners' Association has been formed in Meaford and will hold a meeting each month. The fee is \$1 per year and any licensed radio owner may join. If possible, the association will get a local trouble finder and will also request the library board to get some books in the library on radio for reference. The object of the association are: to endeavor to secure better radio reception; to eliminate local interference; to promote better knowledge of radio telephony. At the present time radio is bad enough with the United States Stations "pirating" wave lengths but when we have added to this the howling and screeching set up by



PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE
Sir Lomer Gouin, who shares with Sir Robert Borden the position of President of the National Committee to prepare the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation.

local operators, who are either careless or ignorant. We think that Meaford radio fans have started an organization worthy of commendation. Now, then, Chesley fans, why not organize along similar lines so that an effort may be made to make radio here something of a pleasure. Who'll start a Radio Listeners' Association in Chesley?—Chesley, Enterprise.

SALIENT FEATURES OF NEW LIQUOR CONTROL BILL

Salient points in the liquor control bill introduced last week in the Legislature were explained by Premier Ferguson as follows:
Individual permits to residents of Ontario, expiring 31st of each October.
Individual permit to temporary residents good for one month.
Special permit to physicians, dentists, etc.
Special permit for ministers of the gospel for sacramental purposes.
Druggists not permitted to dispense liquor.
No liquor must be consumed in a public place.
Liquor consumed must be consumed in the residence, or temporary home of the purchaser.
Establishment of stores left to board, provided local option areas of the Canada Temperance Act are not affected.
Provisions to be effected by the Attorney-General.
Any person found selling liquor to be imprisoned on first offense.
Board official in every brewery warehouse.
One appeal allowed to county judge.
No public advertising of liquor.
Bill becomes effective on proclamation.

WHEN GIBSON GIRLS WERE BEING DONE "JONES" HAD BIG RUN

You old timers! Remember back in the Nineties, when you were a dandy and you proudly escorted your belle down the main street on a Saturday night? Remember the crinolines, and leg o' mutton sleeves, and the hard derby hats, and the moustache cup, and the horse cars, and the stereoscope views that you used to look at through the double lenses, and all the rest of the refinement of that Victorian era?

Just about then was produced a play that was pronounced by all of the contemporary critics, as being the funniest, fastest, flightiest farce that had yet been produced. The play was called, "What Happened to Jones," and its author was George Broadhurst.

Now it has been made into a movie and it will be seen at the Veterans' Star Theatre, Friday and Saturday, March 25 and 26 as the latest Universal-Jewel, starring Reginald Denny, who enacts the title role of Tom Jones.
The star is ably aided by an exceptional cast whose support of Mr. Denny is faultless, including as it does such featured players, as Marion Nixon, Melbourne MacDowell, Frances Raymond, Otis Harlan, Emily Fitzroy, Margaret Quimby, Ben Hendricks, William Austin, Nina Romano, Zasu Pitts, John Elliott, Edward Cecil and Broderick O'Farrell.

The vicar advised his good-looking young curate that it was imprudent to become too popular with the women members of the congregation.
"There is safety in Numbers," observed the curate.
"But there is greater safety in Exodus," retorted the vicar.

ation, which presumably means about May 15.

An Election Promise

Mrs. Green was canvassing for her favorite candidate in the election that was to take place in Lachine. She called at one house, but there was only a little girl in, so she gave her some pamphlets and a photo. Then she asked the girl if her daddy worked.
"Sometimes," replied the girl.
"Well," said Mrs. Green, "if this man wins, your daddy will probably work always. By the way, what does your daddy do when he works?"
"Why, ma'am," said the little girl, "he's the gravedigger at the cemetery!"

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