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LOSERS IN HOME BANK CRASH TO VISIT OTTAWA

Delegation of 200 Depositors
Will Present Case

SESSION MAY END SOON

Single Transferable Vote and
Redistribution May be
Dropped

Special to The Gazette.

Ottawa, June 22.—With the announcement that 200 Home Bank depositors may descend on the Capital next Wednesday to make their representations before the Banking and Commerce Committee of the House, the members are looking for an interesting time. This has been a session of unusually large delegations. The Ontario Hydro interests sent about 200 delegates and the city of Toronto had another delegation of almost equal numbers. The stirring days of the church union hearing are also recalled, when several hundred zealous church members made a determined attempt to get into a chamber that would not hold one-half of them. So it is not surprising that the members are prepared for an interesting time. It is also understood that some of the Home Bank depositors are prepared to do some plain speaking.

It begins to look as though the Home Bank would be the one big reason if the session is prolonged. The indications are multiplying that the Government is quite prepared to drop several controversial subjects of legislation in order to make it easier for the members to go home. Very little is now heard of the single transferable vote, and there are rumors to the effect that this will be put over until next session.

It is also reported that redistribution will be dealt with in like manner. Some of the western members have been inclined to think that it would be bad policy for them to go home without the boundaries of the new ridings in their pockets, in that they would have no assurance that a general election might not be called on the existing representation. But now some of these members think that neglect to pass a redistribution measure would of itself be as good an assurance as could be got that there will not be a general election until next year. Those who think so argue that the Government dare not go to the country on the present distribution of seats.

If redistribution can thus be postponed, then very nearly anything in the way of proposed controversial legislation can go by the board. But an exception must be made of the Home Bank. That is a subject that must be dealt with, or there are quite a few members who will know the reason why. It has been referred by the House to a committee, not only for the purpose of getting recommendations that will the better protect the interests of depositors generally, but also for the purpose of seeing whether anything can be done to reimburse the Home Bank depositors. The sub-committee is now studying the McKeown report, and after it gets through with its work the committee generally will have to debate the whole matter, and a lively debate it will be. It seems impossible to expect the Banking and Commerce Committee to report to the House before the end of the week, and then that body is likely to take its own time over the matter.

AN INDEPENDENT GROUP.

The force to be reckoned with in the Home Bank matter is not so much the Government, or the Opposition, as a group of private members who are determined that Parliament shall face the issue. There is no doubt that these will fight hard against passing the subject along to next session. At present they constitute quite a group, and with 200 depositors here arguing and persuading the members individually and collectively, one may be sure that their numbers will be considerably augmented. There is no doubt that some members consider the Home Bank matter the really big question of the session.

The action of the Prime Minister in absenting himself from the House for several days last week is considered as another indication that the volume of business that cannot be dropped is not very large. The great majority of members would gladly pack their trunks, but there is a general realization that a determined, though small group, will have considerable to say about the length of the session.

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