

# PREMIER DRURY FAILS TO DODGE DISCUSSION ON MOTION NOTICES

## One Dealing With Black Sturgeon River and Pic River Timber Limits and One on St. Lawrence Waterway Stay on Order Paper

### STAR IS SCOLDED FOR ITS CRITICISM

Two notices of motion which the Government wanted withdrawn yesterday in the Legislature remain on the order paper and will cause considerable discussion when they come up. The members responsible for the notices offered some argument and the Premier withdrew his objection.

The one by H. H. Dewart, Liberal Leader, will give a public airing in the House to the Black Sturgeon River and Pic River timber limits, matters about which there has been considerable trouble. The Hydro is also tied up with these companies, and the Hydro officials, the Government, representatives of the companies and municipalities concerned have been working for months to get the problems adjusted. It was because of these negotiations that the Premier wanted the notice withdrawn. Mr. Dewart, however, contended that the Hydro had little to do with his motion, which was more concerned with the limits themselves.

The other motion will start a discussion on the St. Lawrence water route for ocean vessels and also the power question there. The motion is by Dr. H. A. Stevenson of London. Premier Drury objected to the third clause, which asks that the Dominion Government give Ontario the first option on all power generated.

#### A Delicate Question.

"We will not seek the option on power, but we will seek the power as the right of the Province," said Mr. Drury, amid applause from the House.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson contended, however, that the voice of the Province, as expressed in the Legislature, would have some effect on the Dominion, and requested that the motion stand.

Premier Drury, commenting on Mr. Dewart's motion, said that the Government had inherited a delicate question. The officials of the Government, Hydro Commission, the companies concerned and the city of Fort William had been trying to settle the question, but had not yet arrived at a settlement. He wanted to injure no one and to live up to a Government contract, and he hoped the Liberal Leader would see the unwisdom of discussing it. It was an awkward situation and he thought the discussion would embarrass progress.

Mr. Dewart contended that the motion should stand. He wanted open discussion. D. M. Hogarth (Port Arthur) hoped that the discussion would be allowed in order to get the opinion of private members who might be able to assist in a solution. It had been a matter of great worry to his constituency.

Mr. Drury then reviewed the case, declaring that he had not yet got all the facts. During Sir Adam Beck's absence he had tried to get information without taking any action. He had now asked Sir Adam Beck to make every effort to get the matter settled. He thought that until this was accomplished it

was unwise to proceed with discussion.

Mr. Dewart rose again to say that that was part of the trouble. It should not be left to one man. The Liberal Leader said his contention was that the Province should derive more revenue than was realized under the old agreement. He was not interfering with the power question, he said. He had suggested a scale of the limits on the condition that Hydro power be used. That matter was separate, he said.

"Are you suggesting that the Province could not be bound by the agreement?" asked Mr. Raney.

"Yes, I should contend that," said Mr. Dewart.

Hon. Beniah Bowman said that the amount the Province got was more than for any limit up to that time. Hon. Mr. Ferguson confirmed this, and said that no doubt Mr. Dewart's statements were issued on allegations of default. He appealed for a protection of the interests controlling such limits. "It is unfortunate that they should have the uncertainty of an axe hanging over them."

Mr. Drury then withdrew his objection and said the matter would be discussed when Mr. Dewart was ready to press his motion.

#### Are Not Accountable.

The Legislature went on the defensive against criticism that it was needlessly prolonging the debate on the reply to the Speech from the Throne and wasting time in talking. The Premier and the two Leaders of the Opposition parties all got into the discussion and argued that time was not being wasted. The discussion commenced when Hon. G. Howard Ferguson arose on a point of privilege and read an editorial from The Toronto Daily Star which was critical of the debate. The editorial said that only out of courtesy could the discussion be called a debate and that it had been "a senseless waste of time, money and opportunity." He referred to the editorial as "almost scurrilous in character." He did not know a journal that wasted so much space in twists and tortures on the attitude of the House as The Star. "When it comes to a point where it insults every member of this House, it is time to call attention to the fact," said the Conservative Leader.

No newspaper, he said, should go the length of treating "in such an insolent manner the proceedings of the Legislature." He explained that new members wanted to be representatives, and speak. It would be a strange thing if the House were to stand censored by such a paper as The Toronto Star. He declared that there had been little Government legislation ready to proceed with. It took a long time to prepare legislation. The private members were not responsible. "Nor are they accountable to Mr. Joseph Atkinson or any other newspaperman in this Province for their conduct in this House," said the Conservative Leader.

#### Will Assert Rights.

Mr. Dewart supplemented what the Conservative Leader had said, and praised the character of the debate. He declared that it had been of a distinctly educational character. He was sure that no time had been wasted. The Liberal members had been concise, and had gone to the point. "It is to be regretted that we have a press such as the honorable member for Grenville mentions," he said. The Legislature could suffer no "intimidation from an impudent press."

"I wish to add my word of approval," said Premier Drury. "I do not think anyone can say we wasted time. The whole air has been cleared. Any delay is not due to lack of a program of legislation by the Government. I think we can point to fair progress." He declared