

# DRURY REFUSES TO BE INVOLVED IN 'DRY' DISPUTE

Declines to Commit Himself  
as to Statement of  
Spence

WILL SPEAK WHEN READY

Dr. Forbes Godfrey (W. York)  
Tries Vainly to Bait  
Premier

Temperance forces may suggest policies, but they will dictate nothing to the Drury Government, judging by the remarks of the Premier in the Legislature yesterday. Furthermore, the Government declines to be drawn into disputes between the forces of the temperance organizations. Conservative Opposition failed yesterday in an attempt to make the Government commit itself.

Before the orders of the day were called Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) arose and asked Premier Drury if certain utterances of Rev. Benjamin H. Spence, as reported in *The Globe*, constituted, as Mr. Spence stated, the temperance policy of the Government. At the end of a resolution of Dominion Alliance policy Mr. Spence had added the words, "and that the Government has expressed its intention of supporting the same."

Hon. Mr. Raney—This is an attempt to revive—

Dr. Godfrey—Mr. Speaker, I submit that I asked the Premier.

Premier Drury—I do not see much use in answering the question. Personally I intend to vote for both of these measures.

Dr. Godfrey—But is that the Government's policy? Do they intend to support it?

Hon. Mr. Mills—That is Spence's statement.

Dr. Godfrey—I am not asking my honorable friend, the Minister of Mines. He can stick to mines.

Mr. Dewart (laughing)—Take advice from counsel.

Mr. Drury (after brief consultation with Mr. Raney)—When we are ready we will state a policy on that.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—The member for West York has asked a very proper question. Is the newspaper report correct?

Premier Drury—If that is the question, then I will say that when Government policies are to be expressed members of the Government will express them, not outsiders. (Applause from the Government side.)

# SILENCE GREET'S ACTION OF GOVT.

Opposition Taken Aback by  
Introduction of Kapuskasing Report

Two or three days ago Opposition Leaders in the Legislature were clamoring loudly for an opportunity to discuss the Kapuskasing report. Yesterday when Premier Drury laid that toothsome tid-bit before them he was astounded at the heavy veil of silence which descended. According to Mr. Dewart the veil might not be lifted until Major Lang of Cochrane was in attendance.

The Premier introduced the matter by a motion for adjournment, and both Messrs. Ferguson and Dewart were quick to criticize the absence of a Government motion accepting some measure of responsibility. In reply to Mr. Dewart's question the Premier admitted that the Government had consulted neither Conservative nor Liberal Leader in selecting the personnel of the Commission. But the Government, he asserted, was under no obligation to do so; it was a matter for Government administration, for which the Government must and would take full responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I quite agree that it is a matter for administration. He must bring it in based on some motion. I think this is the third occasion on which matters have been brought in in a similar way—entirely irregular and without any responsibility on the part of the Government.

Asks Adjournment.

Mr. Drury retorted that the Government did not in any way wish to evade its responsibility. In the final stage the Government would accept responsibility for the action it took, but in the meantime "we have a right to avail ourselves of the knowledge and facts in possession of any gentlemen in this House."

Mr. Dewart wanted adjournment of the discussion until the attendance of Major Lang, but the Premier's method of introducing it was so entirely novel to him that he was not quite sure of the correct Parliamentary procedure.

Premier Drury—If the members on the other side of the House have nothing to say on this matter we are quite prepared to go ahead and deal with it.

R. R. Hall, Parry Sound, and Major Tolmie, Windsor, rose in succession and agreed that, while the Premier's procedure might not be exactly according to precedent, the House might accept his suggestion of open discussion before the Government policy was definitely brought forward.

Mr. Dewart—The Premier has very adroitly suggested that somebody else may bring the matter up to-morrow. That is not the point at all. May I say I think he has plainly evaded his duty in not putting a motion of some sort before the House? We had expected there would be some suggestion as to whether the Government accepted the finding of the Commission. The Premier cannot escape, as Leader of this Government, the responsibility of government.