

# G. H. FERGUSON RUNS FOUL OF THE JUDICIARY

**Former Minister Waxes  
Wroth With Farmers' Sun  
and Timber Commission**

**"UNTRUE STATEMENTS"**

**Declares Honor of Himself  
and Department is  
at Stake**

Rising on a question of privilege in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in the Hearst Government, characterized as "the vilest kind of slander" and "a tissue of falsehoods" an article in the current issue of The Farmers' Sun, declaring that three letters taken from the files of the department contained the promise of the ex-Minister to "give away 5,000 square miles of forest to the Spanish Pulp & Paper Co."

In the vehemence of his denial of the allegations contained in the article Hon. Mr. Ferguson went on to attribute motives to Justices Riddell and Latchford for certain comments they had passed at timber probe hearings. Premier Drury interrupted him and appealed to Mr. Speaker for a ruling as to whether it was permissible for him to assail members of the judiciary on the floor of the House.

**Should Tell Commission.**

H. H. Dewart, K.C., interrupted with the opinion that the proper place for Mr. Ferguson's speech was before the Timber Commission.

Although the ruling was to the effect that Hon. Mr. Ferguson had not the right to impute wrong motives to the commissioners, the Leader of the Conservative party declared that his honor and the honor of the Legislature was at stake, and he did not propose to stand for "statements untrue and false in every respect, whether made by commissioners, newspapers or anybody else."

Hon. Mr. Ferguson said in part:

"I desire to draw attention of the House to an article appearing in The Farmers' Sun, February 2, with the caption 'Hon. G. Howard Ferguson Gives Away 5,000 Square Miles by Letter.' This startling headline is a glaring falsehood, without a shadow of foundation, and the article following is very largely a tissue of falsehoods. These statements can be accounted for only in one of two ways. They are either made maliciously—and I do not like to attribute malice to a newspaper—or they are made for political purposes, with reckless indifference as to their truth.

**Outlines the Plan.**

"Briefly, the facts are that in 1899 the Government of that day entered into an agreement with the Spanish Pulp & Paper Co. for 'a continuous supply of wood for the purpose of its business' on condition that the company erect a pulp and paper mill, as set out in the agreement.

"Shortly after I took charge of the department the question of wood shortage was brought to my attention and was the subject of discussion from time to time afterward. Along about 1917, when the demands for pulp and paper enormously increased, the company informed me that they contemplated extension of their mills, involving substantial