

ing discussed."

Takes Issue With Members.

The Attorney-General then reverted to the old issue of whether the special O. T. A. Committee carried a recommendation of appeal to County Judges. He proceeded to take issue with the understanding of other members of the committee whose recollections were that it did.

Joseph Thompson—But, depending on the stenographic report, rather than on your memory, does it not say so definitely?

Mr. Dewart, after the Attorney-General had repeatedly refused to concur in the view that the committee had so voted, asked: "Will the Attorney-General say that at any stage of that whole discussion there was any suggestion of any other concrete thought except the question of appeal to County Judges?"

Hon. Mr. Raney—I have not read the whole record.

Mr. Dewart—No, you picked out what suited you.

The Liberal Leader, pressing his contention, read from statements made by the Attorney-General before the committee. Hon. Mr. Ferguson asked how, in view of the evidence read, the committee members could have arrived at any other conclusion than that they were voting on County Judge appeals.

"Pinning Him Down."

"I am indifferent to conclusions," retorted the Attorney-General.

Mr. Dewart—But we are anxious to pin the Attorney-General down to something. Can he say how any suggestion other than that of appeal to County Judges was ever put before the committee?

Hon. Mr. Raney did not answer the question directly, but said he was wholly concerned at the moment with putting all the evidence before the House and leaving honorable members to draw their own conclusions.

"The Government desires to avoid the appearance of any unfairness to any person charged with offenses under this act," went on Hon. Mr. Raney. "The Government has since considered the whole subject and the Government has arrived at the decision to recommend to the House an appeal by the defendant in these cases to be heard by the County Judge on the record of the evidence taken before the Police Magistrate."

Mr. Brackin—Taken in shorthand or by the Magistrate?

Hon. Mr. Raney—That is as may be.

Mr. Brackin contrasted the fairness of the two propositions. All that would come before the County Judge, where there was no shorthand record, he said, was such notes of evidence as the Magistrate had seen fit to take down.

Attorney-General Raney said the shorthand method would be impracticable. Opposition members ridiculed with an outburst of laughter Hon. Mr. Raney's statement that he was not certain that the Magistrate's notes were not a better record for appeal purposes than the shorthand evidence. "How comes all this solicitude," he asked, "for the bootlegger? We never hear a demand for a right of appeal for the keeper of a disorderly house or worse."

Magistrates Can't Write.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson asked the Attorney-General if he were not aware of the unconscious aptitude of the Police Magistrate to color the evidence which he jotted down in long-hand. Mr. Brackin broke in with: "Some of them can't write." Perhaps, if it were found necessary, agreed Hon. Mr. Raney, some method of supplying shorthand writers would be found.

When the Attorney-General repeated his comparisons of protection of bootleggers and keepers of houses of ill-repute Hon. Mr. Ferguson jumped to his feet with a protest that honorable members were being insulted. "Surely," he said, "honorable members have a right to discuss a measure of appeal under the O. T. A. without being charged with

attempting to safeguard bootleggers."

The Attorney-General said that the concession of appeal to a County Judge was made in deference to the very wide sentiment against too much centralization. "The Government," he said, "has no purpose whatever in convicting any innocent man. If we have erred at all in the enforcement of this act we have erred on the side of leniency."

Mr. Dewart—Does the Attorney-General not realize that what we are proposing to do is to take that power away from him and from his minions, the License Commissioners, and to place it in the hands of the County Judges?

Hon. Mr. Raney objected to the term "minions" and proceeded to eulogize the work of the License Commissioners, who, he said, were doing splendid work for the Province.

Want More Work.

When the Attorney-General commenced to read letters from County Judges disapproving of the right of appeal to County Judges, R. L. Brackin interposed and asked if he did not realize that these gentlemen were very much opposed to the imposition of more work on themselves. "Time and again," retorted the Attorney-General, amid laughter from the Opposition side, "the County Judges have appealed to me: 'For goodness sake give us more work to do.'"

He made the statement that in his opinion there never was a man prosecuted for bootlegging who was not a bootlegger. When he was in some difficulties in describing just what constituted a bootlegger R. L. Brackin suggested across the floor: "An international trader."

When the Attorney-General in one of his remarks left the inference that the present issue was one between supporters and opponents of the O. T. A. Mr. Dewart interrupted with: "If that is the issue which the Attorney-General deems is now before the House he is very much mistaken. He is endeavoring to make it so, most unfairly."

He concluded with an appeal for rational rather than prejudicial consideration of O. T. A. matters. "There is," he said, "a failure on the part of some prohibitionists to make sufficient allowances for the irritation of other good citizens, just as good as they are, who honestly feel that their liberty is being abridged by the O. T. A."

Question of Election.

T. H. Lennox, Conservative, North York, referred to a Globe news story which set forth the intentions of the Drury Government to go to the country if the Government was not sustained on its O. T. A. appeal recommendations. Personally, said Mr. Lennox, he had no fears of the issue in an election, nor had he any fears of losing the U. F. O. Government.

Mr. Lennox compared the old License Act with present legislation in respect of the severity of the penalties for infringement. Under former acts, he declared, there was very little reason for infraction of the law, because of the ease with which liquor could be secured. Such prosecutions as were then roceeded with were, in the great majority of cases, against persons whose offense gave them the right of appeal.

"Who ever heard of the late Government engaging criminals to enforce the law?" he asked. Conditions now prevailing, he declared, were due largely to the class of men being employed by the Attorney-General, such as the Hallams.

Attorney-General—May I point out that the Hallams were engaged by Mr. Mousseau, who was appointed by the late Government.

The member for North York cited instances of the employment of what he termed "blacklegs and bootleggers" in the enforcement of the Temperance Act. Scores of these men, he said, were known publicly as perjurers.

"Will you deny," he asked the Attorney-General, "that there are a half-dozen men who have been in your employ within six months now serving sentences in jail?"

Attorney-General—So far as I know, there isn't one.

Wants Questions Written.

Mr. Tolmie—How many men during the year, Mr. Attorney-General, have been discharged by the License Department of your department, be-