

LAKE OF WOODS BILL WITHDRAWN BY THE PREMIER

Mr. Drury Drops Measure in
Face of Determined
Opposition

FILIBUSTER THREATENED

Early this morning Premier Drury withdrew his bill to provide for the appointment of a joint Federal and Provincial Board to regulate the levels of the Lake of the Woods. The measure was strongly opposed by H. H. Dewart, Liberal Leader, and Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, on the ground that the Province was unnecessarily delegating its powers to a commission. Peter Heenan, Labor member for Kenora, and a Government supporter, was firmly opposed to the measure, and indicated his intention, if the bill was pressed, of speaking at great length into the small hours of the morning.

Big Loss Predicted.

Mr. Heenan, in arguing against the bill, declared that it amounted to a notice of eviction to the people of the Kenora district. He cited statistics from various reports of the International Joint Waterways Commission and Government engineers to show that were Ontario to pass the Drury bill it would entail an immediate annual loss of nearly a million dollars' worth of power possibilities and ultimately untold loss in industrial development.

The Premier's view was that co-operation was essential, and that if co-operation, as approved by this bill, was not put into effect, then the Dominion might, if it saw fit, interfere seriously with Ontario power development under the guise of regulation of water levels for navigation purposes.

Contention is Opposed.

Opposing this contention by Mr. Drury, Hon. G. H. Ferguson and Mr. Dewart insisted that so long as the Province kept the levels within the minimum and maximum levels set by the International Waterways Commission in a report which the Dominion had approved, the Federal authorities could not interfere with the Province in any way.

The Opposition Leaders both opposed the bill generally on the ground that it involved a surrender of Provincial rights.

RANEY BACKING DEWART'S BILL

Votes in Favor of Reporting
It From the Legal
Committee

MEASURE IS NOT KILLED

Hartley H. Dewart's amendment to the Ontario Temperance Act, prohibiting the sale of native wines, came before the Legal Committee yesterday morning, and after a strange and varied course is still before the committee, which stands adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman, Charles McCrea.

When the bill came up for con-

sideration Mr. Dewart was not present. R. R. Hall (Parry Sound) made a short speech favoring the adoption of the proposed amendment. He said he did not believe that the people in the Province were getting a square deal when one section was cut off from its favorite beverage and another section got it. There already was imposed on the people of the Province, he said, an incomplete Prohibition Act. A man who had means could purchase what quantities he wanted of native wines.

Get Mr. Raney's Opinion.

H. P. Hill of Ottawa suggested that the bill was important enough to be discussed by members of the committee.

"Give Mr. Hall his bill and let it be carried away," suggested Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Hill said he would like to get the opinion of the Attorney-General. "I want to see this committee divide on this bill," said Mr. Raney.

R. L. Brackin (West Kent) moved, seconded by Hon. W. R. Rollo, that the bill be not reported.

Mr. Hill moved that the bill come into force upon Royal proclamation, but the Chairman said such a motion was out of order.

The vote on Mr. Brackin's motion was: Yeas—Messrs. Allan, Biggs, Brackin, Ferguson, Nixon, Rollo, Sinclair. Nays—Curry, Hill, Raney.

That ended the bill for the time being.

Sponsor Reopens Discussion.

A few minutes later Mr. Dewart arrived and asked that the committee reconsider the bill. Mr. Brackin moved for reconsideration and the committee agreed.

Mr. Dewart said that he had an amendment in mind. One of the clauses of the bill restricted the amount of native wines obtainable upon prescription at any one time to six ounces. He wished to remove that restriction against persons in places where there was no dispensary.

Chairman McCrea suggested that, as the amendment would be of some importance, the matter stand until the next meeting of the committee. The committee then adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

DEWART SCORES SEARCH METHODS

Blames Attorney-General for
Result of Fleming
Yacht Suit

Before second reading was given in the Legislature yesterday to Attorney-General Raney's bill to permit search of boats and yachts for liquor, H. H. Dewart, Liberal Leader, offered some severe criticism as to the manner in which the right of search had been made in the past.

"I know it hurts," he sharply retorted when Hon. Mr. Raney on one occasion rose to a point of order on Mr. Dewart's assertion that he (Mr. Raney) endorsed Rev. J. O. L. Spracklin's actions on the Fleming yacht in respect to which there followed a civil action.

Concerning the bill itself, the Liberal Leader said that in his view "to give anybody the right to search boats is something that I think is not within the judgment of the best people of Ontario." He objected that it was not even necessary for the officer to swear that he believes that the particular case in which search is proposed is one in which he can act.

One of the Liberal Leader's passing references to the Attorney-General's liquor officers included the word "thugs," and he referred to them as "a particular class of individuals."