

TORY MEMBER RAISES STORM

EXPLANATIONS ARE MADE

A. C. Lewis, M.P.P. for Northeast Toronto, started a stormy time for himself yesterday in the Legislature when he made remarks that, Government members held, reflected upon the Cabinet. Mr. Lewis was at the time discussing the Hydro vote for \$3,500,000, and Premier Drury appealed to the Chairman, Malcolm MacVicar, East Elgin, twice for a ruling as to whether Mr. Lewis should retract. There was a good deal of noise and crying of "order" by members, but eventually it was found that it was all due to a misunderstanding, and the storm subsided.

Too Important to Pass Over.

Mr. Lewis said that the statement made by Colonel Carmichael (regarding his resignation) was unexpected, and if the Government had wanted the vote to go through that afternoon the Minister should not have made the critical observations he had. He opposed the passing of the vote at that sitting, he said. He thought the Minister without portfolio should get more information and figures on the cost of the whole scheme.

Colonel Carmichael said he had tendered his resignation because he had not sufficient confidence in the estimates that had been submitted in the past. Did it not follow, he asked, that in any estimates submitted now he would have the same lack of confidence?

Mr. Lewis said it was his duty to give the final figures, whether he liked it or not. Colonel Carmichael answered he had resigned because he had said once that figures were final that were not final. He did not want to do that again.

Mr. Lewis' rejoinder to this was that if all Ministers were so punctilious as to resign every time any of them made a misstatement the Treasury benches would be empty.

Retraction Demanded.

This brought the storm. Hon. Mr. Biggs and Premier Drury demanded a retraction, and the Prime Minister appealed to the Chair. Chairman MacVicar's ruling was that Mr. Lewis should retract or substantiate his statement.

Hon. Howard Ferguson came to the rescue of his follower and explained that Mr. Lewis was referring to estimates in which anyone might make a mistake.

This did not satisfy the Government members.

"Are you man enough to take it back?" demanded Mr. Biggs, and when no retraction was made Mr. Biggs said then that he was not man enough.

This led to a demand from Conservative benches for a retraction from Mr. Biggs. Finally the Prime Minister smoothed matters over by repeating what he thought Mr. Lewis had said, and Mr. Lewis denied having uttered such words. The Northeast Toronto member closed his address by affirming strongly his faith in Sir Adam Beck and the Hydro movement.