

TALK ABOUT BOILERS

Hon. G. H. Ferguson Says Premier Drury "Acts Like 10-year-old Youngster"—R. R. Hall Scores Farmers for "Desertion of Kind"

The net results of the labors of the Legislature yesterday afternoon consisted of giving second readings to three of the four minor bills; the killing of one; and an almost equal number of measures withdrawn, upon Government assurance that similar bills were to be presented with Government sanction.

After it had received the severest kind of criticism from Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, a measure introduced by L. W. Oke, East Lambton, to discontinue Government inspections upon less than 25 h.p. steam portable boilers, received second reading and was sent to the Agricultural Committee.

The argument in favor of the measure was that intermittent inspections proved onerous upon the farmers. Hon. Mr. Rollo, Z. Mageau, Sturgeon Falls, and others, described the bill as a dangerous proposal, the Minister characterizing it as "one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation which have come before the House this year."

The discussion did not conclude before the Prime Minister received an admonition from Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, as to his "petulance." Hon. Mr. Ferguson interrupted the Minister of Labor to say something, and the Premier objected. Said Hon. Mr. Ferguson: "It does get a bit tiresome when the First Minister in the Province of Ontario acts like a 10-year-old youngster in this House every day."

A bill, fostered by H. A. Stevenson, London, to give husband and

wife voting privileges upon property owned by either, upon the request of the owner, was withdrawn when it was announced the Government proposed submitting a measure which would clarify a difficult situation.

Withdraws Two Bills.

Two bills introduced by J. W. Curry, Southeast Toronto, were also withdrawn when Premier Drury declared their purport was covered in pending Government legislation. Mr. Curry's measures called for the insertion in Hydro-radial by-laws and municipal by-laws of the maximum amount of the debentures to be issued under the by-laws.

H. H. Dewart, K.C., vigorously protested against any measure which would permit the municipalities to borrow on a sliding scale up to a stated maximum, in a manner, he said, similar to that adopted by the Government under the terms of the Hydro Act.

In spite of vigorous presentation and advocacy by R. R. Hall, Parry Sound, of a bill which would impose upon the land-holding lumbermen of the North country certain obligations with respect to road upkeep and construction in front of their far-reaching lands, the House killed the measure on second reading. Mr. Hall made a strong plea on behalf of the farmers of the North country, who, he said, were put to a great deal of hardship by reason of the apathy of the lumbermen toward good roads requirements.

Hon. B. Bowman Objects.

Hon. Beniah Bowman declared that before such an imposition of considerable magnitude could be placed upon the lumbermen they would have to have some notice and the additional obligation would have to be included in the agreements covering purchases of limits. D. J. Taylor, North Grey, also opposed the bill as impracticable.

In a stinging reply, Mr. Hall, charged the farmer members opposite with abandoning their kind in the North country. He charged them with being blind to the needs of the very industry which they were sent to the Legislature to represent. He wished he could command the language to awaken them to a recognition of their interests, and the House laughed at Hon. G. H. Ferguson's interruption, to the effect that the kind of language necessary to that end would not be tolerated in the House.

R. L. Brackin, Liberal member for Kent, spoke in support, as did Captain Jack Ramsden, Liberal, Southwest Toronto.

Opposition Members Criticize Speeches by Hon. Mr. Drury and E. Watson

STATEMENTS APPROVED?

Before the orders of the day were called in the Legislature yesterday the report of Premier Drury's speech made recently at Welland came under fire. H. H. Dewart, Southwest Toronto, read at some length extracts from the report, which set out that the Premier said he was like Nehemiah of old, building with one hand, and with a spear in the other fighting off the "vicious and vexatious assaults of honorable gentlemen across the aisle." Mr. Dewart took exception to this phrase, and said he wanted the Premier to say if he used those words, and, if he did, to withdraw them.

The Premier replied he had used substantially the words quoted. He suggested that "my honorable friend should cultivate a sense of humor."

"Who More Fit Than They."

M. M. MacBride, Brantford, then read the report of a speech purported to have been delivered by Edgar Watson, North Victoria, in which Mr. Watson was quoted as saying that the farmer was a better man to hold the reins of power than the Labor man of the city, who was willing to experiment with society. Mr. MacBride wanted to know if that was the opinion of the Labor members on the Government side of the House.

No one rising to reply, there were cries of "Rollo" from Opposition benches, and Mr. MacBride put the question to the Minister of Labor. Mr. Rollo wanted to know why he was asked, when the opinion had been given by a member not belonging to the Labor group. Premier Drury then rose, and protested against the abuse of privilege in drawing to the attention of the House business extraneous to the House.

Ferguson Upholds MacBride.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Conservative Leader, maintained more than that was involved. It was in order to consider not only business of the House, but questions affecting members of the House. The member from South Brant was quite within his rights in asking if the view was endorsed by the Government, he argued.

Mr. Drury pointed out that Mr. Watson was not present. Mr. Ferguson retorted that the Government was entitled to say whether what Mr. Watson had said was the attitude of the Government or not.

Then the Speaker intervened. He said that before the orders of the day were called it was the privilege of members to bring to the attention of the House matters affecting members, or matters important to the Province. It was not intended that everything any member saw in a newspaper was to be brought to the attention of the House. He asked the members not to do this. He