

Mr. Raney replied that the House should not take too seriously any pronouncement of Government policy in the columns of the newspaper referred to by Mr. Ferguson. "A statement will be made in the House, I would anticipate, before the end of the week."

The Conservative Leader said he was not asking if the newspaper was reliable, but whether it was a fact that a Judge was to preside over the commission.

#### **Drury Will Speak.**

"I am not prepared to make any announcement at this time," said the Attorney-General. "The matter is in the hands of the Prime Minister, and he will make the announcement."

Mr. Ferguson then voiced his protest. During the course of it the Speaker asked him if, seeing the Premier was going to make an announcement, he could not defer his remarks, but Mr. Ferguson said he wished to place himself upon record,

He said he wished to protest against dragging the judiciary into semi-political inquiries any further.

"It is surely high time that this Government ceased appointing Judges to commissions dealing with subjects that are political in their character, and controversial in their nature," he said. "The judiciary should be entirely above suspicion, and should command the entire confidence of the public. When they are asked to step down from the exalted position upon the Bench to become the specially retained and paid servants of the Government in work that is of a political nature, their conduct as commissioners inevitably and properly becomes the subject of comment and criticism."

Mr. Ferguson was proceeding when the Attorney-General said that perhaps it might serve "if I were to assure the honorable member that the Government had no present intention of appointing a Judge to the commission."

"The inquiry into expenditures in connection with the Chippawa Canal is surely a matter for this House and not for a hand-picked commission," said Mr. Ferguson. "Knowing the attitude of the Government toward public ownership and Hydro enterprises any tribunal appointed will be under the handicap of public suspicion and criticism in advance. I say that it is unfair to Judges and must inevitably undermine the respect and confidence that everybody wants to maintain in the Judges of this country, if every time a Government wants to shirk responsibility they seek to hide behind the gown of a judicial tribunal."

## **To Meet Wednesday On Public Accounts**

Just before the Legislature rose yesterday Premier Drury announced, in answer to a question by Hon. Howard Ferguson, that he had been advised that a special resolution was not necessary to permit the Public Accounts Committee to meet before the Budget was passed, and that he had instructed the Clerk to call the first meeting of this committee for next Wednesday.