

"Thirteen Good Men and True"?

Hon. Manning Doherty said he could understand Mr. Ferguson asking for the papers, but he could not understand Mr. Gaby bringing them. Mr. Ferguson remaining on his feet, the Attorney-General asked him: "Who do you think is running this committee?"

"Don't be so irritable," said Mr. Ferguson. "It's an awful pity when the Premier goes away and leaves you alone. There can be only one object in refusing to have these papers identified—to provide a few days' delay."

Mr. Ferguson argued that the committee had always been regarded as wide open, with power to hold a full investigation into any matter any member wanted to bring up.

After some more cross-fire between Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Curry, Mr. Ferguson said that when an official was summoned before the committee it was generally understood that the resolution need only provide a groundwork for the inquiries. This was the first attempt he had ever seen, he said, to "burk" an inquiry.

W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal member for South Ontario, then took a hand. He said it did not stand to the credit of the Government to send seven Cabinet Ministers into the committee to delay an investigation on purely technical grounds. Hon. F. C. Biggs resented this, and said he had a right to be present to represent his constituents.

Mr. Raney then moved that Mr. Gaby produce documents according to the subpoena, and when this was carried Mr. Gaby head his subpoena. It called for the production of papers and correspondence in connection with the Chippawa scheme.

It was then suggested the committee should meet next Wednesday morning, and that nothing should be done in the meantime. Mr. Ferguson moved that Mr. Gaby should appear at this meeting with his estimates and correspondence. The Attorney-General said he had no objection to this, but added that, if the House took any action in the matter of appointing a committee or a commission to investigate Chippawa, the Government reserved the right to suggest that the Public Accounts Committee should proceed no further with this particular inquiry.

Objection was also taken to Mr. Ferguson looking at the documents before the next meeting, and it was decided they should remain in the custody of the Hydro-electric Commission.

The inalienable right of every British subject accused of a crime to be tried by "twelve good men and true" is being assailed in the Legislature. Robert McLeod, member for Stormont, has a bill to increase the number of jurors to 13. Despite objections, this bill was given second reading and passed to the committee stage. Members of committee may have solicitude for the feelings of accused persons and defeat the bill to prevent them being subjected to the danger of being tried by an unlucky number of their peers.

Mr. McLeod's bill would increase to 13 the number of jurors hearing evidence in important cases. The Attorney-General was not exactly in accord with the proposal of the bill. Although the 13 jurors, under the terms of the bill, were to hear evidence, one of them would drop out at the jury chamber, and it was suggested on behalf of the measure it would effect great saving in court expenses in obviating instances where a single juror's illness necessitates rehearing of all the evidence.

Mr. Raney said that, while it was a proposal for which much might be said in favor, there were certain drawbacks. Provision had been made in all courts for 12 jurymen, not 13, and each one of the 13, thinking he would be the one to drop out, would pay less attention to the case.

Hon. Mr. Raney Tells Legislature Gen. Elliott Resigns

MAKE CHANGE ON MAY 1

Attorney-General Raney told the Legislature yesterday that General H. M. Elliott, Commissioner of Provincial Police, whose term expires on May 1, would not continue in his duties on account of ill-health. Mr. Raney said that General Elliott's health had been such that he had been contemplating asking an extended leave of absence. At the present time he was unable to attend to his duties on account of bad health.