

RANEY HITS BACK AT T. HERB. LENNOX, DEFENDING REGIME

Admits "Errors in Judgment" on Part of Subordinates in Not Sufficiently Investigating Records of Some Prospective Liquor Operators — Indiscretions Draw Prompt Dismissal

H. H. DEWART SCORES "THE TEN TINKERS"

From a mass of correspondence and reports Attorney-General Raney, in the Legislature yesterday, undertook to prove that the department was not deliberately employing "thugs, criminals and felons" to assist in the administration of the Ontario Temperance Act, as had been previously charged by T. H. Lennox, K.C., Conservative member for North York.

Taking up case after case brought forward by Mr. Lennox in his charges, Hon. Mr. Raney maintained that in each instance either the original basis of criticism with respect to the operator was untrue or that the department, immediately it had conclusive proof of the undesirability of the employee, had dismissed him. In one or two instances did the Attorney-General admit "errors in judgment" on the part of his subordinates in not making sufficient investigation into the record of a prospective liquor operator, or in continuing in employment a man who had made a slip.

Lennox Makes Denial.

There were a few tense moments during the Attorney-General's address of over an hour and a half, when, in response to Hon. Mr. Raney's question, Mr. Lennox denied absolutely that he had paid for or had promised to pay for any of the vast quantity of information respecting O.T.A. enforcement which he let loose on the House in his five and one-half hour address. Neither, said Mr. Lennox, did he get any of his information from Mr. Courian, whom he had seen but once for five minutes in six months.

The Attorney-General replied by reading a signed statement by former Special Officer Frank E. Budway to the effect that on Sunday, March 20, when he was in Courian's house, Mr. Lennox came in and offered him \$200 "for any information regarding operators in the department," and asked him (Budway) to go over with him a list of names in the Public Accounts.

Cheap at \$200.

"Now, does the honorable member deny he offered to pay this man \$200?" asked the Attorney-General.

Mr. Lennox—I say it is absolutely and unqualifiedly false. But the information I got is worth, not only \$200, but \$20,000.

Hon. Mr. Raney—It would be cheap at \$200.

Before the little exchange was over, Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, observed that in getting his information from Budway the Attorney-General was evidently going to the same sources as did apparently the member for North York.