

LEWIS QUERIES EVIDENCE GIVEN BY R. T. HARDING

Says His and Premier's
Statements About Backus
Retainer Conflict

ASKS LAW SOCIETY PROBE

Only quick manoeuvring on the part of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson and W. F. Nickle staved off in the Legislature yesterday both direct questions and a statement by the Attorney-General relative to the speech of Major A. C. Lewis, Northeast Toronto, made recently in the House, concerning the alleged murder of Capt. Orville Huston.

Before the strategists got in their work Mr. Lewis made a request of the Government that the Attorney-General should take up with the Law Society of Upper Canada the statement of R. T. Harding, K.C., made under oath before the MacIntosh Commission, that he had had no connection with E. W. Backus.

Statement Not True.

Mr. Lewis, before the orders of the day were called, referred to the sworn testimony of Premier Drury before the Timber Commission in which the Premier was reported to have said that as soon as it had been brought to the attention of the Government that Mr. Harding had represented Backus' interests he was asked to sever his connection with the Timber Commission. Mr. Lewis said that if a solicitor could go into the box and make a statement that was not true, and according to the Premier it was not true, then there should be an investigation by the Law Society, and the Attorney-General should instigate such investigation.

Attorney-General Raney explained that Mr. Backus had asked Mr. Harding to perform certain duties. Mr. Harding had come to the Government in connection with these duties, and was at once confronted with the situation and immediately declined to act in connection with these duties.

Ferguson Blocks Statement.

Mr. Raney said then that he would put a question to Mr. Lewis. He began to refer to Mr. Lewis' now famous speech, when Mr. Ferguson arose and said that while it was the right of a private member to ask a question of the Government, it was not the right of a member of the Government to ask a question of a private member.

The Attorney-General said he would make a statement, and maybe the Toronto member could reply. Again Mr. Raney started to go over the ground, when Mr. Nickle intervened. Was not this matter still under the scope of the Commission of Inquiry? The Speaker ruled that it was an old Parliamentary rule that matters subjudice could not be discussed in the House. That ended the incident.

REVISE LIST OF J.P.'S.

Answering an inquiry in the House yesterday as to whether the Government contemplated having a revision made of the list of Justices of the Peace this year, Hon. W. E. Raney, Attorney-General, said that the Government would take the matter under consideration during the recess.

OKE PERSISTS AND WINS DAY

Disregarding Cabinet Disapproval, U.F.O. Member
Rushes Bill Through

U.F.O. MEMBERS "BOLT"

In one of the oddest votes of the session, L. W. Oke, U.F.O. member for East Lambton, carried his Steam Boilers' Act amendment through the committee stage in the Legislature last night. The effect of Mr. Oke's bill is to exclude from the inspection provisions of the act boilers of 25 horsepower capacity and under, used for horticultural and agricultural purposes.

Members Oppose Cabinet.

Picayune as the issue might seem at first glance, the point was debated for well over an hour. The opponents of Mr. Oke's amendment went down to defeat by a 35 to 21 vote, in which the whole of the Ministry opposed the great majority of the private U. F. O. members. On the Opposition side, Messrs. Nickle, Clarke, Curry and Sinclair voted with the Premier and his Cabinet, while Hon. Mr. Ferguson and the balance of his following supported Mr. Oke.

Mr. Oke said that the Threshers' Association was strongly opposed to the inspection regulations which were a source of expense and annoyance to them. He pointed out that previous to 1918 there had been no inspection, with no bad results, and he hinted broadly that in any case the inspection as carried on since 1918 was far from being efficient.

His chief antagonist was the Minister of Labor, who reiterated his previous contention that it was one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation to come before the House.

Will Concede Nothing.

Premier Drury, members of the Cabinet, and others joined in the discussion, and finally it was proposed that Mr. Oke somewhat modify his amendment, so that there would at least be inspection at the factory or of American-made boilers coming into Canada. Mr. Oke, however, maintained that what was desired was complete elimination of inspection.

The committee became all tangled up in its efforts to dispose of the bill, Hon. Mr. Rollo first moving that the committee rise, in which event, it was pointed out to him, two previously endorsed bills would also be killed. Finally a standing vote was taken on the call of the Chairman, "Shall the bill be reported?"