

the large gallery.

### Three Other Bids.

Mr. McCrea declared that Berths 46 and 49 of the Quetico Forest Reserve had gone to the Shevlin-Clarke Company only after three other bids had been entered, one of which was from Mr. Backus. He accused the Government of having adopted strong-arm methods to bring the Shevlin-Clarke Company to terms, and said that the action taken had left "one of the greatest blots upon the honesty and integrity of the Government of Ontario." Further, he charged that Mr. Backus was paying only \$9.50 for timber similar to that for which the Shevlin-Clarke people were paying \$20.10.

At about a quarter after nine last night Hon. W. E. Raney finished his speech on the debate on the Address—a speech delivered in three parts, and lasting in all about three hours and forty minutes. Yesterday was devoid of much of the excitement that made Wednesday's session historical for the Legislature, but still there was plenty of entertainment, and the chances of a fighting row kept the House and the crowded galleries always interested. The Attorney-General again carried a relentless war into the Conservative camp in general, and against the member for Grenville, Hon. Mr. Ferguson, in particular.

It was as severe an arraignment as has been heard in politics in years. It was presented more in a legal than a Parliamentary manner, the reading of lengthy extracts from official documents, the explanation, the argument, and the appeal to the House as to a jury.

### Conservatives Nervous.

Mr. Raney had the Conservatives showing nerves. They did not like it, and they fidgeted and whispered among themselves and interrupted and tried to appear amused. The Attorney-General was merciless in piling fact upon fact and argument upon argument. To give Hon. Mr. Ferguson credit, he sat there through it all, when he was not interpoating, but his followers were less faithful. Gen. Hogarth of Port Arthur remained with his Leader most of the time, but Col. Currie, Herb Lennox, and others of the ginger group found it convenient to be out of the Chamber at some critical periods.

### Ministers Are Delighted.

Of course the U.F.O. members were out in force to cheer their Attorney-General. Premier Drury stuck closer to his desk than has been his custom. His face showed that he was pleased—greatly pleased. Mr. Drury has not yet attained statesmenlike control of his mobile countenance, which seemed to reveal the thought, "Well, the hides are now going on the fence, and they are not our hides. They are Tory hides, and all is well." But the man on the Government side who obviously enjoyed the oratorical pounding the most was Hon. Peter Smith. Yesterday had been set aside as Hon. Peter's day, when he would deliver the Budget speech, but he gladly gave way to see and listen to Mr. Ferguson get his medicine. Hon. Peter led the U.F.O. applause, and after most occasions on which he pounded his desk he indulged in a whole-souled laugh, which must have been irritating to his friends opposite. Hon. Peter may be strongly U.F.O., and he may have been a Liberal once, but there is not much doubt he never loved the Conservatives, and he laughed at their discomfiture.

### Defends the Inquiries.

Mr. Raney defended the Government's appointment of commissions. Outside the three main inquiries, on timber, Hydro-radials and Hydro-electric, the total cost had been \$57,043. One of these had cost \$9,500, and it had returned \$81,000 to the Province, and opposite this he set \$28,000 paid to one Toronto lawyer by the late Administration. Coming to the Sutherland Commission, he said it had cost less than 4 per cent. of the in-

terest for one year on the amount Sir Adam Beck had proposed to spend on Hydro-radials. Naturally, he was closely questioned as to his figures, but he refused to be sidetracked. He claimed the cost of the Gregory Commission would be a small thing compared with the investments it was probing.

Then came the usual crack at Mr. Ferguson, whom the Attorney-General accused of saying a departmental inquiry had cost two or three thousand dollars whereas the total expenditure was but \$58.30. He supposed a lot of Conservatives believed everything their Leader said.

### Hint at Campaign Funds.

Next Mr. Raney switched to a lengthy defense of the Backus deal, and what looked at first like a serious scrap began. This deal had been criticized by Gen. Hogarth of Port Arthur, and the Attorney-General went out of his way to tell the House that Gen. Hogarth now spent most of his time in Oklahoma. Several times Mr. Raney had to appeal to the Speaker, who ruled against interruptions. Col. Currie tried to ask a question, and the Speaker told him to take his seat, while the Attorney-General said he preferred to answer no more questions. He compared the Backus deal with Mr. Ferguson's reputed offer to the Spanish River Company for 4,000 square miles of pulpwood lands, adding that the Spanish River Company had financed on the strength of a letter from the former Minister, now Conservative Leader. During an interchange the Attorney-General mentioned something about campaign funds, which brought Mr. Ferguson to his feet with an indignant denial. "Campaign funds came from somewhere," retorted Mr. Raney.

Mr. Raney denied any secret, sinister motives in the Backus bargain, and added that the Conservative criticism had suggested improprieties. This and many interruptions again forced him to ask for protection "against the member for Grenville. I know he is nervous." T. H. Lennox took up the task of asking questions, but was told, "You may not ask that question, nor any other question."

### Cash-and-Carry Patronage.

The Shevlin-Clarke Co. limits, sold by Mr. Ferguson when a Minister, formed a good subject for Mr. Raney. He told how J. A. Mathieu, Conservative, M.P.P. for Rainy River, was Vice-President of this company, and how an utterly inexperienced young man, McDonald, had valued the timber berth without seeing it, and practically had done the same thing with other berths, by which the Shevlin-Clarke Co. had benefited. Much of Mr. Raney's statement was taken from the evidence in the timber probe. Mr. Ferguson interrupted to admit that it was the "grossest piece of misrepresentation ever practiced on the department," but the admission did not save him from the wrath of the Attorney-General. Mr. Raney charged that Mathieu, who was not in the House yesterday, really had been given a present of more than a million dollars. The deal was dubbed "gross cash-and-carry patronage," and "perhaps there has been nothing in Canada to compare with the relations between Mathieu and the member for Grenville."

### A New Hydro Policy.

A significant remark was uttered by Mr. Raney in dealing with the Nipigon power controversy. He was telling of the attempts made to get Mr. Allstead of the Great Lakes Paper Co. and Sir Adam Beck together on the price of power. "And this is no novelty—friction developed," he asserted. Further, he announced that the Government might override the Hydro Commission and fix the price of power at Port Arthur and Fort William. This price would be the same for both places. He contended the Govern-