

DIVISION IN LEGISLATURE ENDS DEBATE ON SPEECH; CREATES NEW PRECEDENT

Defeat of J. A. Currie's Motion to Adjourn Debate Comes After Premier Insists on Refusing Postponement — Charles McCrea Makes Vigorous Defense of Former Government's Timber Administration

REPLIES TO CHARGES MADE BY MR. RANEY

Immediately following the first division of the session—upon the issue of whether J. A. Currie, Conservative member, was to have the privilege of adjourning the debate—the debate on the Speech from the Throne wound up in the Legislature last night. The discussion occupied exactly four weeks.

Wind-up Comes Quickly.

The wind-up and the carrying of the motion to convey to his Honor "an humble address" came at 9.45, and was preceded and succeeded by a succession of colorful and interesting events, such as are rarely crowded into a brief half-hour of Legislature proceedings.

After Charles McCrea, Conservative member for Sudbury, had concluded his lengthy and able address, which dealt wholly with timber affairs, J. A. Currie, one of the so-called "ginger group," sought to move the adjournment. Although he complained of having been ill, and announced his intention of moving an amendment, Premier Drury voiced the Government's opposition to any further postponements.

Adjournment Request Refused.

Through a chorus of urgings to "go on now" from Liberal and Government benches the Conservative member reiterated several times his request to be permitted to speak later, and Hon. G. H. Ferguson, his Leader, supporting him, declared with some vigor that never before had he seen a Government refuse that courtesy. Mr. Currie voiced the same protest. However, the Premier was adamant and suggested dividing the House on the issue, which was done, with the result that Mr. Currie's motion to adjourn was defeated by 50 to 23.

Before the vote was taken, W. H. Casselman, U.F.O. member for Dundas, voiced his disapproval of the Government's apparent disinclination to grant the adjournment request of Mr. Currie. In his opinion, he said, a member had given a valid reason, and as there were other orders to be proceeded with, he thought the courtesy might well be extended. He alone, on the Government side, voted with Mr. Currie for adjournment, other supporters being the whole of the Conservative group, and, of the Liberals, Messrs. Sinclair, Tolmie, Mewhinney, Dewart, Cooper, Brackin and Lang.

After the division Mr. Currie said: "If the honorable Leader of the House seeks to prevent my speaking I will drop it right now. Let the amendment go, too." It is understood that the member for

Southeast Toronto will now present his amendment in the Budget debate.

Wants Public Accounts.

Then followed a mirth-provoking exchange between Provincial Treasurer Peter Smith and H. H. Dewart, K.C. commencing in a spirit of heated criticism but ending humorously. Hon. Provincial Treasurer Smith moved that the House do on Thursday resolve itself into Committee of Supply—which means that the Budget will be presented—and Mr. Dewart promptly arose to inquire as to the whereabouts of Public Accounts, and if they were not now printed. He understood they had been printed for several days and concluded that the only useful purpose in so abruptly terminating the debate was to get them before the House.

Provincial Treasurer Smith, however, was not, apparently, desirous of distributing them before Wednesday, and he started to advance another motion without replying.

"I am asking the Minister a question," interrupted Mr. Dewart, somewhat angrily. "Does he not hear me? I am asking him a question, as to whether the Public Accounts are printed."

Mr. Smith—Sit down and I'll answer you. They have been printed two or three days. I think I got them on Tuesday. I don't know just where they are. They are locked up somewhere. If I can find anybody to get them I can distribute them tonight.

Mr. Dewart Insistent.

Mr. Dewart—Do I understand an honorable Minister of the Crown, having custody of the Public Accounts, as saying that he doesn't know where these copies of Public Accounts are? May I suggest that it is his business to know? Will he not endeavor to find out where they are? Can he not ascertain where the misplaced documents are secreted? Possibly the Attorney-General ought to be called in. Is it a case of 'Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find them'?"

Mr. Dewart extended his brilliantly humorous sarcasm at some length, and the House, upon conclusion, roared in laughter and applauded.

About 10.15 Provincial Treasurer Smith, having found his Public Accounts, strutted across the floor, and, with great ceremony, placed one on the desk of Mr. Dewart.

Mr. McCrea Makes "Brief."

Mr. McCrea's "brief" was a voluminous one. He attacked his subject from the legal standpoint, and left no stone unturned in his effort to refute the charges made last week by Attorney-General Raney with reference to the late Government's administration of Provincial timber lands. Taking up Mr. Raney's analysis of the sale of berth 51 of the Quetico Reserve to the Shevlin-Clarke Company, he suggested that the Attorney-General had imputed a "frame-up" on the part of the ex-Minister of Lands and Forests, Hon. G. H. Ferguson.

This Mr. Raney denied, stating that he had intended to show "negligence of the grossest character." He had imputed no knowledge on the part of the ex-Minister of the spuriousness of the letter reporting the cruise of the limit in question, he said.

The member for Sudbury then turned to meet his antagonist on his own ground by pointing out that the Attorney-General had absolved himself from responsibility for employment of "thugs" for the enforcement of the O.T.A. by stating that he was unaware of the fact. "Apply this rule, and there is not one tittle of evidence to show that Mr. Ferguson knew this man (Alan MacDonald) had not been on the limit. All I am asking is that this matter be judged by the same standards which the Attorney-General sets up for himself."

Turning to the disposal of berths 45 and 49 to the same company, the