

# RANEY'S REBUTTAL CAUSES H. H. DEWART TO REPEAT CHARGES

Three Letters Produced by  
Attorney-General Charac-  
terized as "Inspired"

## PURCHASE OF DISPENSARY

After a lively tilt with H. H. Dewart, K.C., Attorney-General Raney last night succeeded in reading in the Legislature the Government's answer to the charge that a "job had been put up" in connection with the purchase by the Ontario License Board of the building which now houses the Government Liquor Dispensary at Simcoe and Wellington streets.

This answer took the form of three letters—one from J. B. Rea's solicitor and the other two from real estate agents—all three of which denied the inference of the Dewart charges and detailed facts to substantiate their claims.

### Mr. Dewart Repeats Charges.

During the argument which took place between Mr. Dewart and the Attorney-General it developed that the latter had commissioned an office assistant to look into the matter and that the three letters, all bearing yesterday's date, had been the result of this assistant's activities. The latter fact led the member for Southwest Toronto to characterize the documents as "inspired." The letters, said Mr. Dewart, did not in any way meet the statements he had made; he, therefore, repeated his charges.

On the opening of last night's session Mr. Raney asked the permission of the House to read and table the letters, along with copies of the agreements referred to by Mr. Dewart on Monday. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson rose to object that the originator of the charges was not in his seat, but before he could state his case Mr. Dewart walked down the aisle to make his own objections. He claimed that the Attorney-General was out of order and could not introduce business not on the order paper.

### Speaker Upholds Mr. Raney.

Mr. Raney met the protest by insisting on his right to speak on a matter of privilege. His opponent stuck to his guns, declared that there was no ground for a question of privilege, and finally appealed to the Speaker for a ruling. The latter, after asking the Attorney-General to state what he proposed to do, ruled against Mr. Dewart, on the ground that it was only fair that information relative to charges made on the floor of the House should be placed before the members.

Mr. Raney then proceeded with the reading of his documents. A letter from Oscar H. King, solicitor to J. B. Rea, who sold to the Government, declared that, although his client had purchased at \$175,000, the original price asked had been "far in excess" of that amount. Mr. Rea, he said, had required the building for factory purposes, and he resold it only after considerable persuasion.

### Real Estate Men Write.

A second letter from Gibson Brothers, estate agents, stated that a little over a year ago they had listed the property at \$225,000. Prior to the offer made by the Government Mr. Rea had been asked to sell, but had refused.

The third, from the firm of E. & J. Flanagan, agents, who negotiated the sale to the Government, stated that the writer was "quite certain that Mr. Rea did not know the Government was looking for a building prior to his purchase of the factory," and that "no one on behalf of the Government had inspected the building before it was purchased by Mr. Rea."

### Declares Letters "Inspired."

The recital concluded, Mr. Dewart was on his feet to launch out into a speech.

Mr. Raney objected that he was out of order, but his opponent again asked for a ruling by the Speaker. This time he was successful.

"Never in my short parliamentary career," he said, "have I observed such a studied effort to obtain ex-post facto evidence which cannot be traversed, from witnesses who cannot be examined." He regarded the letters as "inspired."

"They do not in any way meet the statements I made last night. I must therefore repeat these statements." The latter declaration, the speaker made good, by elucidating for a second time the substance of his Monday night speech.

## TO SECURE LANDS BY EXPROPRIATION

Government's Plans for Forest Nurseries Excite  
G. H. Ferguson

## PRISONERS EARN MONEY

Considerable expansion of the Ontario Government's reforestation nurseries was forecast in the Legislature last night by Hon. Beniah Bowman, Minister of Lands and Forests. During debate on second reading of a bill to empower his department to expropriate lands for nursery or reforestation purposes the Minister stated that the capacity of the Norfolk Nurseries had been doubled four times during the last year and that it was the intention of the Government "to go ahead on a very large scale."

### Gets Second Reading.

Despite considerable objection from the Opposition benches the Minister's bill secured second reading without division. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson deplored the "sweeping authority" which the measure conferred on the department and stated that it would leave the way open for "most extraordinary pieces of confiscation." The Government, if it wanted land for forest purposes, he said, should buy it and "not force the poor farmer to give it up against his wishes."

Premier Drury was inclined to laugh at the Conservative Leader's protestations. The honorable member, he said, was an adept "at carving Hallowe'en pumpkins out of very pulpy material and lighting them with the candle of his own fervid imagination." The bill sought to bestow a very necessary power. The Government wanted nursery sites; they were hard to get, and once it became known that the Government wanted certain properties lands which were next to worthless assumed a very considerable value. The bill sought to overcome that difficulty.

D. J. Taylor (U.F.O., North Grey) suggested that too much attention was being paid to soft timbers. At the same time second-growth hardwood in Old Ontario was being slaughtered.

### Paroling of Prisoners.

During discussion in the committee stage of Hon. H. C. Nixon's bill to remove the statutory authorization for the paroling of prisoners in Ontario prisons sentenced under Federal laws the Provincial Secretary was forced to speak at considerable length in defense of the whole parole system. That it was successful was evidenced, he said, by the fact that during 1922 276 prisoners had been paroled. Only four had caused trouble and three of these had been recaptured. In addition, the earnings of paroled men had totalled over \$50,000, all of which amount had gone to the support of their families.