

# PREMIER ANNOUNCES DISSOLUTION MAY 4, WITH VOTE IN JUNE

**Introduces Bills for Redistribution, Proportional Representation and Single Transferable Vote for One-member Ridings—Conservative Leader Surprised at Decision, and Doubts if Three Weeks Give Sufficient Time to Perfect These Measures**

## ALL IS EXCITEMENT UP IN QUEEN'S PARK

**All Parties Get Busy in Preparation for Election—Senator Hardy Takes J. A. Currie to Task Over Exposure of Private Letter—J. J. Morrison Plays Sphinx**

The fifteenth Legislature of Ontario is to be dissolved on or about May 4, and the Provincial general election will follow in the last week of June.

This announcement, confirming the forecast in *The Globe*, was made by Premier Drury to the Legislature when the House met yesterday afternoon. It followed a busy morning of conferences with the Ministers and a meeting of the Cabinet in Council. The sensational episodes of the overnight sitting had left the atmosphere at Queen's Park tense with expectancy, and many rumors of "developments" were afloat.

### Great Stir in Queen's Park.

It was evident from the moment when Ministers and members started to arrive at the Buildings that all parties and groups took for granted the imminence of an appeal to the people. Pre-election preparations got under way openly. Group conferences took place at various party headquarters. A full attendance of members and crowded, curious galleries greeted Mr. Speaker when he took the chair at the formal opening of the House.

The Premier did not leave any doubt as to the procedure upon which the Government had determined. Immediately following his announcement of pending dissolution he introduced in blank three electoral bills—redistribution, proportional representation and the single transferable vote system in single-member ridings. Those bills are to be first dealt with by a committee consisting of 11 Government members, 5 Liberals, 5 Conservatives and 1 Independent, with the Speaker as Chairman.

### Hardy Deals With Currie.

These significant happenings constituted the aftermath in the House of Wednesday's sensational occurrences—these and the appointment of Edgar Evans of Simcoe as Acting

Government Whip in the room and instead of Andrew Hicks of Huron. But outside the House other things were taking place. Senator A. C. Hardy at Ottawa issued a brief statement dealing with J. A. Currie's use of the "private and confidential" letter written to J. W. Curry and misdirected to the latter's Conservative colleague, in which he states his reasons for writing it, and accuses Mr. Currie of violating ethical amenities in the treatment of it. At the headquarters of the United Farmers of Ontario the President, W. A. Amos, and the Secretary, J. J. Morrison, were in close conference, but they had no public statements to make—yet.

### J. J. Like "Brer Bear."

Mr. Morrison's eyes were twinkling, but, as he said of himself on another occasion, his tongue was not wagging. He did not look as though he had lost sleep over the developments. Mr. Amos ventured the opinion that it would be interesting to watch the result of the riding nominating conventions of the U.F.O. Mr. Morrison is going out to speak in the campaign, if he is invited so to do, but emphasized that there would be no "dictation" to constituencies from the central office.

The standing of the various political groups in the Legislature at present is as follows: U.F.O., 43; Liberals, 27; Conservatives, 26; Labor, 12; Independents, 2; Soldier, 1.

### "Will Have to Hurry."

In his allowance of three weeks for the winding up of necessary business, passing estimates, and discussion of electoral reform measures, the Premier has set the Legislature a task which the more experienced House members on Opposition benches say they believe is impossible of accomplishment. Morning sessions, of course, are a possibility, but, taking everything into consideration, opinions were freely expressed yesterday that the House cannot have electoral reforms and adjourn May 4, as suggested by the Prime Minister.

"I have two bills which I wish to introduce to the House," said the Premier, "and in doing so I wish to make a statement as to the treatment I wish to give them. The House and the country realize that yesterday's situation was one that came with considerable shock to me personally, and I felt unequal to the task yesterday of making a pronouncement on the situation."

### June Only Feasible Month.

"The situation has been made clear by the vote of confidence in the House last night; in fact, I feel that the Government at the present time has the confidence of the House and of the people, and cannot and ought not seek, on a pretext of want of confidence, to evade the doing of our duty, particularly in the matter of electoral reform and redistribution. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is desirable and in the public interest that the condition of uncertainty should not be prolonged. I think it desirable that the people should be consulted before midsummer. June is the only favorable month. July and August are not months in which an election can or ought to be run.

"Therefore, I have outlined the following course of action. We can, giving due time for the process of election, continue the House until the 4th day of May. That will leave three full weeks after this week for the transaction of business. My belief is that the business of the House is in such a condition—there may be some contentious bills withdrawn, and I would assure honorable members opposite I will endeavor to facilitate the business by every means, and bills of a non-essential nature may be withdrawn.

### Can Rush Business.

"But in that time the House—the committees have nearly ended their