

ABUSIVE EPITHETS END IN APOLOGIES

John A. Currie, M.P.P., and
Hon. D. Carmichael in
Sensational Tilt

ALMOST COME TO BLOWS

White with anger, Hon. Dougall Carmichael, Minister without portfolio in the Drury Government, advanced from a front-row seat to the edge of the aisle, and, in hot resentment at the tone of language used toward him by John A. Currie (Conservative, Southeast Toronto), stood poised ready to go across and join in physical battle with his opponent, Col. Currie saying defiantly the while, "You can't lick me!"

The sensational incident came about 8.30 yesterday morning in the Legislature when the House was considering an estimate relative to the purchase of a vessel for use in the fishing service on Lake Erie. The qualifications of a Capt. Hobbs were being inquired into by Mr. Currie and Mr. Carmichael seemed to be interested. In reply to a question, Mr. Carmichael said he knew Capt. Hobbs. Mr. Currie then said he would ask some questions of Mr. Carmichael.

"Don't you take that line with me," warned Col. Carmichael, starting up.

"Don't you talk that way to me, your senior officer. You'll get a court-martial," replied the Conservative member.

Mr. Carmichael advanced to the edge of the aisle separating Government from Opposition benches. Mr. Currie kept up a stream of words, including, "You can't lick me!" "It won't go with me!"

Almost speechless with anger, Mr. Carmichael said, "You dirty scoundrel!"

Apparently thinking he said something else, Mr. Currie came back with, "You double skunk!"

"You say that again and we'll pull you out of the House!" angrily called out E. J. Evans, South Simcoe.

Meanwhile Hon. Harry Mills hurried up to Mr. Carmichael and gently pulled him back to his seat.

"I said you were a dirty scoundrel," said Mr. Carmichael as he sat down.

Mr. Currie demanded a retraction, and the Chairman, F. G. Sandy, South Victoria, said both remarks should be taken back. "But," he added, addressing Mr. Currie, "I think these gentlemen have been under great provocation from you."

Both withdrew their remarks and peace came again.

BANTING-BEST BILL READ.

First reading was given in the Legislature yesterday to the bill introduced by Premier Drury to aid Dr. Banting and C. H. Best.

REMARK BY CURRIE NETTLES MARCEAU

Member for Nipissing De-
fends Present Fire-rang-
ing System

EX-SOLDIERS GET JOBS

During consideration of colonization road estimates yesterday in the Legislature there were some warm debates between J. H. Marceau (Liberal, Nipissing) and John A. Currie (Conservative, Southeast Toronto) as to the way roads were being built in the North and as to the system of fire-ranging. Mr. Marceau said that, under the old Government, road building was a political affair, while under this Government the member had the privilege of having something to say in the expenditure of the money.

Resents Currie's Remark.

Mr. Marceau came to his feet in hot protest when Mr. Currie said that in a certain section in the North 80 per cent. of the fire-rangers were not from this Province, but from Quebec. Mr. Marceau took issue also with Mr. Currie's prophecy that in 25 years all the timber would be cut south of the Transcontinental line. He claimed that there were 245,000 square miles of timber in the North and that only 45,000 square miles were under license, and of this latter amount not half was cut. The fire-ranging system during the past two years was 100 per cent. better than under the old Government, he asserted.

Preference to Soldiers.

J. C. Ramsden (Liberal, Southwest Toronto) asked when the Premier was going to bring in a bill providing that returned soldiers be given preference in appointments to the Civil Service. The Premier said such was now the policy of the Government and it might not be wise to make such policy statutory. However, he asked Mr. Ramsden to draw up a bill and intimated that he might introduce it. Joseph McNamara (Riverdale) praised the Government for its treatment of returned men in this respect.

TOOK FREE BONDS ON RISING MARKET

Deputy Provincial Treasurer
Admits Payment at
Premium Cost

EFFECT INFLATES PRICES

After several weeks lay-off, Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature resumed operations at Queen's Park yesterday morning, when W. F. Nickle, K.C., Conservative member for Kingston, elicited from Deputy Provincial Treasurer Charles Mathews details of the Province's purchase of succession duty free bonds from the Sir John Eaton estate, and also of departmental methods of retrieving other large blocks of these tax-free securities.

Secure Bonds at \$43,000 Cost.

Under Mr. Nickle's examination, Mr. Mathews admitted that the Eaton bonds were procured at a premium cost to the Province of \$43,000, although by waiting two months more they could have been secured at par. In justification, he pointed out, in response to a question put by R. L. Brackin, K.C., that the early purchase obliterated the possibility of ultimate premium costs of \$200,000, which might have been entailed by subsequent resale within those two months. The bonds, Mr. Mathews explained, were payable in January, 1923, but were purchased on October 26, 1922.

The other feature of the morning evidence brought out by Mr. Nickle was the establishment of the fact that the Treasury Department had over a period of months bought in these bonds on a steadily rising market, and that the prices paid brokers for the securities were several points higher—in some instances ten points—than those prevailing on the London market.

The Kingston member pressed for information as to how the department justified what he deemed an apparent lack of business foresight, and as to whether the department kept in touch with the first financial market of the world. Mr. Mathews said that the department had no London broker agent, but that the department had kept itself informed as to London prices.

Forces Prices Up.

Mr. Mathews in his evidence stressed the point that these bonds had varying values to different estates, according to the valuation total of the estate. They had not advertised that they were in the market for Succession Duty Frees, but had dealt rather with individual offerings. He admitted that the Province's buying had ultimately resulted in forcing prices up many points, and stated that the department had simply stopped buying when the price got beyond what it was deemed advisable to pay. With the Province out the market sagged again six points.

"It impresses me as not being good business," stated Mr. Nickle, in comment. "It means the loss of thousands of dollars." He noted in one instance a spread of 17 points.

Suspects "Switching."

In regard to one statement by the Deputy Treasurer, to the effect that the department had reasonable ground for the suspicion that there had been "switching" among estates of these succession duty free bonds, Mr. Nickle asked why did not the Government introduce legis-