

# The OBSERVER IN QUEEN'S PARK



Andrew Hicks waited and waited in the House yesterday, without success. He had a speech on his chest, something about the Premier's alleged flirtations with Liberals, and perhaps Conservatives, to form a new Cabinet. Everybody knew Andy wanted to orate, but he did not get a chance all afternoon and early enough in the evening to get it in the morning papers. Yesterday the House had a morning session, and consequently the orders of the day were called then. The former Whip's only opportunity would be before the orders of the day were called. Then, too, it was necessary for Premier Drury to be in the House, because Andy's remarks were to be directed at him personally, and Andy does not care to say things behind a man's back.

#### Conditions Unfavorable.

Early in the afternoon the Huron man was in his seat with a bundle of notes. Premier Drury was absent, Mr. Raney leading the House. The Premier remained away most of the afternoon, taking his place only under the utmost urgency. When Mr. Drury was present no opportunity was given Andy and his package of political dynamite. For the first hour of the House word was passed around that Mr. Drury was having his afternoon nap, but as time wore on it was said that it had developed into a strategic sleep, with the order left outside the door to awaken him when the battle was won.

Andy held on grimly till 6 o'clock without the slightest opportunity being presented. At night he was early on the job. Premier Drury was there, too, but the House was quickly moved into other business. Mr. Hicks waited until nearly 10 o'clock, and then left, with the statement that he would not speak until today.

The general opinion was that Andy had been "shunted" for the time being, but the ex-Whip is persistent, and he will again seek his chance today to tell the House and country what he knows of the Premier's political moves. So far all he has obtained is six hours of "watchful waiting."

#### A Narrow Escape.

The Government had a narrow escape from defeat yesterday on the amendment to the Adolescent School Attendance Act. The vote, on second reading, resulted in 37 to 32 in favor of the measure of the Minister of Education. It will be remembered that W. H. Casselman had an amendment to the act earlier in the session, but this was withdrawn following a verbal arrangement with the Minister, Hon. Dr. Grant. The latter subsequently introduced an amendment of his own which he thought would satisfy Mr. Casselman. Like so many verbal arrangements this session, the parties misunderstood one another, and different explanations were heard on the floor of the House. The Government's amendment, which is worth quoting in full, as it gives the exceptions as applied to rural schools, follows:

The obligation to attend school under this section shall not apply to any adolescent whose parents or guardians reside in a rural school section and whose services are required in the household or on the farm of his

parents or guardians, provided that such adolescent has completed, as certified by the principal of the school and the local school inspector, the course of study of the public and separate schools to the extent that instruction in this course is given in the section in which his parents or guardians reside, or has been in regular attendance at school for at least three months during the year, and adolescents exempt under this section shall not be required to obtain home permits as provided in sub-section 1 of section 4.

#### How the Vote Went.

Mr. Casselman and others would have been satisfied with the amendment if all words after the word "provided" were omitted. Only two members on the Opposition benches voted with the Government, these being J. W. Curry and W. F. Nickle. U.F.O. members voting against their Minister were: Hicks, Oke and Cridland. This was the narrowest squeak the Government has had this session. A number of Oppositionists who are generally present were out of their places. Had these men been on hand undoubtedly a Government defeat would have been registered.

#### Blue Sky Bill Passed.

Hon. Mr. Raney's Blue Sky Bill passed the dangerous committee stage early yesterday afternoon, after having met with more opposition, much of it factious, than any other measure, excepting the ill-fated redistribution measure. Much of yesterday morning's session was taken up with the bill, and it was called first thing after 3 o'clock. The Conservatives, who had all along been most critical, were not in their places. "Shall section so-and-so carry?" sang out the Chairman several times. "Carried," echoed Mr. Raney, and, there being no protest from Mr. Ferguson's corner, the whole thing slipped through. Several leading Conservatives then arrived, held a hurried conversation, and were forced to admit among themselves that they had been beaten in House tactics. The protracted battles which the Blue Sky Bill has caused made few changes in the measure itself. One section giving protection to informers on bogus securities was withdrawn, and its provisions do not apply to prospectors' syndicates in the mining industry. Otherwise, the bill is much the same as drafted. Nearly everybody admitted that such legislation was necessary, but there seemed to be about a hundred methods of doing it. In the end, however, Mr. Raney, by persistent battling, had his own way, and the measure goes to third reading in much the form he desired.

#### Brackin at Milton.

R. L. Brackin will be the Liberal speaker at Milton today, when Halton Liberals are expected to nominate a candidate in opposition to Premier Drury.

Liberal Leader Hay has made arrangements to speak at the Centre Huron Liberal convention at Seaforth on May 17, and at the South Bruce convention at Formosa on May 15. J. N. Govenlock is the Liberal representative for Centre Huron, and Frank Rennie for South Bruce. It was said yesterday that both men would be renominated.