

Friday, Feb. 8th

DOHERTY CHALLENGES FERGUSON'S FLOUTING OF FORMER U.F.O. BAND

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**Demands Recognition as
Leader of Opposition in
Uncompromising
Fashion — Labor Mem-
ber Bristles Over Scat-
tering of Toilers' Group
—Tory Leader Called to
Order by Raney**

CHAIR'S FIRST RULING IS AGAINST PREMIER

Promptly upon the opening of the first business session of the Legislature yesterday Hon. Manning Doherty, Leader of the "Progressives," announced his intention of contesting on the floor of the House Premier Ferguson's announced decision to recognize the Liberals, rather than the former U.F.O. group, as the official Opposition.

The former Minister of Agriculture delivered in uncompromising fashion his notice of motion that on Tuesday next he would take up the matter, and, a moment later, in speaking to the protest of Peter Heenan, Labor member for Kenora, at the splitting up of the Labor representatives, accused the Premier of attempting to "break up the seating of this party."

First Ruling Against Government.

Premier Ferguson explained the preliminary negotiations between party representatives which had preceded the final seating arrangement, and would have spoken in reply to Mr. Doherty's vigorous protest at non-recognition for himself as Leader of the Opposition. Former Attorney-General Raney, however, arose to a point of order and invoked the Speaker's ruling as to whether Mr. Ferguson was in order in discussing a notice of motion. Fate determined that Speaker Thompson's first ruling—called for in his first minute in the chair—should be against the Government. He ruled that the matter could very well wait for discussion on Tuesday next, and Mr. Ferguson had to wait.

Mr. Doherty's Protest.

In introducing his notice of motion Mr. Doherty referred to the matter as one which was of vital importance and which concerned the dignity of the Speaker, affecting, he said, "the traditions of our race and respect for constitutional government." He read the Premier's statement of intention to recognize the Liberal party as the Opposition, and Mr. Ferguson and Conservative members applauded vigorously when he

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came to the Premier's declaration that he interpreted the verdict of June last as the desire of the people to return to the two-party system.

"On Tuesday next," said Mr. Doherty, "I shall request the Speaker to recognize me as the Leader of an Opposition group of more than fifteen members in the House and to assign to that group the recognition—to which it is entitled as the senior—of chief Opposition in the House. I shall protest against the action of the Prime Minister as a breach, not only of law, but of the Constitution—as an affront to the Speaker of the House."

Premier Ferguson expressed surprise that his "usually urbane and mild-mannered friend should foment with such indignation over such a trifling matter. I am surprised also," he continued, "that my hon. friend should stand up in this House and take a position so utterly inconsistent and in defiance of the principle laid down by the organization to which he belongs."

Labor Raises Its Voice.

Mr. Heenan then protested that the Labor members were not seated together. "There is a Labor group in this House," he said, "which wishes to be recognized as distinct from any other group. We are now seated in different parts of the House. There is the member for Rainy River, Mr. Callan, and myself, and there may be others before the session is closed, and I would like you to arrange to seat us all together."

Mr. Ferguson referred to the efforts he had made to get the wishes of the various sections in regard to seating, with which Mr. Doherty for the most part agreed. But he pointed out some discrepancy, and reminded him of a communication he had sent in which a desired arrangement was mapped out.

"My hon. friend wrote to me as Chairman or Convener of an organization known as the Progressive party, which I never heard of," said the Premier.

Mr. Doherty—May I say the Premier is going to hear a lot of things he never heard before.

Tributes to Notable Men.

Premier Ferguson then referred publicly to the passing of three outstanding men—Dr. Vrooman, Liberal, who died shortly after his election in Lennox; Sir William Meredith, and E. C. Whitney, brother of Sir James Pliny Whitney, former Premier. Each one he extolled as a public-spirited citizen, who would be sadly missed in his individual sphere. W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., Leader of the Liberal Opposition, and Hon. Manning Doherty, in a few words, acquiesced in the Premier's public expression of regret.

Debate on the Address.

Protection against importations from the United States of certain products of the farm, especially truck and garden products, and eulogistic references to the possibilities of Northern Ontario and the part it would play in the development of Canada, were contained in the addresses by the mover and seconder of the reply to the Speech from the Throne. The addresses of the two members, it was admitted on all hands, were of unusual excellence, and the debating talents of the new House are of a high order if the speeches yesterday can be taken as an indication.

The Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved by J. F. B. Belford, East Northumberland, and the seconder was W. S. Haney, West Lambton, the youngest member in the House, who was warmly congratulated by fellow-members of all parties after the House adjourned.

Mr. Belford, who proclaimed himself a farmer, in discussing farm conditions, said the difficulties were due not so much to farming as to economic difficulties. When the farmer could put his agricultural products and garden products on the markets before importations of similar lines of produce from the United States, then conditions would improve, he declared.

"Grandmotherism" Not Necessary.

He thought there should be a certain amount of paternalism in legislation; that the Government should feel toward the people something of the sympathy of a father to his family. He was opposed, however, to paternalism "carried to grandmotherism." He approved the proposed formation of the committee to study agricultural conditions, and said the farmers needed such a committee.

The East Northumberland member said that if capital could be interested in the North country it would mean prosperity all round. He was glad the Government was not allowing the lakes and rivers to be depleted of fish, and added that the utilization of all these different sources of wealth would go to build up the country.

Mr. Belford advocated a judicious advertising campaign to bring tourists to the scenic beauties of Eastern Ontario, and urged the building of roads in that part of the Province to connect northerly with the main Provincial Highway.

Touching on the Ontario Temperance Act, Mr. Belford said that the O.T.A. had been placed on the statute books by the will of the people, "and only by the will of the people can there be a change in this act. This is a policy on which I was elected, and which I intend to follow in this House." Education, he asserted, should produce and develop the very best traits in a boy's character.

Youngest Member Speaks.

Mr. Haney, the member for West Lambton, referred eulogistically to the services rendered in the past by Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, and the late Hon. W. J. Hanna, a former West Lambton member, and said the Government was following in the latter's footsteps by its policy of free distribution of insulin. Such promise and zeal by the Minister of Health should and did augur well for one so capable and humane in his outlook, said Mr. Haney, referring to Dr. Forbes Godfrey. Applause greeted this statement, which applause was joined in by Hon. W. E. Raney.

Mr. Haney had something to say of "adverse criticism and gross misrepresentation" respecting the Hydro development, and said that while the Gregory Commission was created because it was contended the Chippawa development was costing too much, actually the development, it was said, had shown a surplus last year of \$400,000. Further installations would be necessary in the Nipigon development, he thought. The policy of the Government in proceeding with the St. Lawrence scheme echoed the Whitney policy and echoed the sentiments of loyal Conservatives throughout the Province. The people were demanding that there should be no curtailment of electrical energy to turn the wheels of industry.

Discussing Northern Ontario, Mr. Haney said he was glad the Government was taking action on the iron ore problem, and added that if Ottawa would not assist probably the people would put an Administration in power which would do something. He reminded the Premier humorously of the "logical location" of Sarnia in any plan of transshipment of Western fuel, and de-