

Friday, Feb. 15th

He referred to the farmers of North York who, on just such an issue, he said, had come down armed with pitchforks and flintlocks, which prompted Premier Ferguson to query: "Is this a threat?" Without pausing, however, Mr. Raney condemned the attitude of the Premier—that, he having made up his mind, there was an end to it.

Mr. Ferguson—What are you going to do about it? That is the question.

When Mr. Raney challenged the Premier to show a newspaper report which indicated that he had told the people in the last election that the issue was a return to the two-party system and the expulsion of the third party, Mr. Finlayson said: "We all said it."

Plans of Progressives.

Mr. Raney summed up the Progressives' proposed course as follows:

"The Prime Minister, in his speech of yesterday to this House, has assumed the position that it is unnecessary for him to justify, by argument or show of reason, why the supporters of the late Government should not be recognized as the chief Opposition party in this Assembly. Refusal by a Prime Minister to recognize the majority Opposition party as the chief Opposition is so obviously contrary to all Parliamentary practices, and so far-reaching is its possible dangers to the rights of the people's representatives, that, as a party, we must continue our protests until such time as our requests, as presented in a memorandum to the Speaker, are granted.

"Until the rights of the majority Opposition party to constitute the chief Opposition in this House are

recognized, we shall continue to register our protest, and make our demands with the opening of each legislative session of this Parliament, and otherwise as occasion and opportunity may arise."

To Improve O.T.A. Methods.

No referendum on the Ontario Temperance Act should be held until the end of the year at least, and when it is held it should be under the guidance and supervision of municipally appointed officials, contended William Finlayson, Conservative, East Simcoe, in continuing the debate yesterday. Mr. Finlayson claimed that the methods of enforcing the act by the former Attorney-General had stirred up opposition to prohibition, but methods had been improved under the present Attorney-General, and the people should have a certain length of time to see the act enforced in a reasonable and moderate way before a vote is taken.

If a vote had been taken last summer on this question the Province would have voted "wet," claimed Mr. Finlayson, because the people were irritated and annoyed to such an extent by enforcement methods that they had "lost their balance." He appealed to the Leaders of all the parties "not to make a football of the question." People had got it into their heads during the past four years that the Ontario Temperance Act was a rich man's law, he asserted. During the course of his speech Mr. Finlayson observed that he understood that it was on the Government program to submit this question.

Raney as Journalist.

The Simcoe member criticized Hon. Mr. Raney respecting certain of his published articles since the elections as "attempting to make money and political capital out of this question," and declared that his publications in a local newspaper "were the most offensive series of letters ever seen in a public journal." He declared that Government followers would not stand for abuse of the Government by Mr. Raney, and added that all the Conservatives in the House were solidly behind the Premier. Referring to Mr. Raney's remark about "glorying in the American Revolution," Mr. Finlayson said, amid Conservative applause, that he would prefer to glory in "our ancestry of the United Empire Loyalists."

Sam Clarke, Liberal, West Northumberland, moved the adjournment of the debate.