

Sat. March 8th

COMPLETE INQUIRY INTO BOND DEALINGS ASKED BY DOHERTY

Premier Announces That Public Accounts Committee Will Investigate

SOME ESTIMATES PASSED

A full investigation of the allegations contained in Hon. W. H. Price's speech of Wednesday, in which the Provincial Treasurer charged the late Progressive Government with having lost thousands of dollars as a result of the policy pursued by Treasurer Peter Smith in connection with the purchase of succession-duty-free bonds, will be made before the Public Accounts Committee. Premier Ferguson told the House that this would be done in response to a request made yesterday afternoon by Manning Doherty, Leader of the Progressive group, that a fair and impartial commission be appointed for the purpose.

Courts Full Inquiry.

Mr. Doherty began his request with a reference to the Provincial Treasurer's "fairly specific charges."

"Allegations," amended Premier Ferguson.

"All right," said Mr. Doherty. "Since then I have read over carefully what the Provincial Treasurer said. It is our desire that the fullest possible and most thorough inquiry be made into these allegations. Since the speech by the Provincial Treasurer I have had the opportunity of conversing by telephone with the late Provincial Treasurer —"

Premier Ferguson—I think my honorable friend should state his request.

Mr. Doherty—I merely wanted to lay down my reasons.

Premier Ferguson—The Public Accounts Committee meets on Wednesday.

Further exchange of words was cut short by the ruling of the Speaker that Mr. Doherty should proceed to make his request.

Seeks Impartial Probe.

"The former Provincial Treasurer," continued Mr. Doherty, "is also anxious for the fullest possible investigation. I think these allegations are of such a serious nature that it is the desire of all the members of the Government that this investigation should be not only thorough and fair, but impartial, so that when the report is made it shall be from a source manifestly untinged by the views of any political party."

Mr. Doherty then said that his request was that a commission be appointed under the Public Inquiry Act, and that it might consist of any members whom the Premier should desire to appoint, so that the allegations might be fully and completely inquired into.

"I feel sure the Prime Minister has a desire for an investigation, and that it be made before a tribunal that is entirely free from any affiliation with any political party," Mr. Doherty said, intimating that the scope of the inquiry might necessitate it taking up time beyond the present session of the House.

In announcing that the Public Accounts Committee would deal with the allegations, Premier Ferguson said there was more to be revealed than already had been indicated.