

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

moved the adjournment of the House and put certain questions to the Prime Minister. Mr. Ferguson countered by asking Mr. Raney to place them on the order paper in the usual way.

#### Ruled Out of Order.

Before the orders of the day were called Mr. Raney rose to his feet, and, preparatory to what he had to say, started to refer to the Premier's speech on temperance during the election campaign, at Spencerville. Mr. Ferguson raised a point of order and Speaker Thompson ruled that, if it were not a question or a matter affecting Mr. Raney personally, then he was out of order.

Amid cries of "Order!" Mr. Raney said he was going to go on, and he started again to read. Again Mr. Thompson ruled. "We are not going to start now making new rules," Mr. Raney said. "I hope the honorable member will respect the Chair and the House also," said the Speaker.

Attorney-General Nickle moved that the orders of the day be called, and the Speaker put the motion. "I desire to speak to that motion," said Mr. Raney. "It's not debatable," said Mr. Nickle. The Speaker upheld this contention, and then Mr. Raney asked the Speaker to give the authority for that ruling. Mr. Thompson read from the manual and declared the motion was not debatable. Then Mr. Raney moved the adjournment of the House.

#### Thinks It Unbecoming.

Premier Ferguson said he thought it unbecoming that any member should defy the ruling of the Chair. The persistent defiance of the Speaker was unprecedented in the House, he added, and there was only one remedy for a case of that kind. "My honorable friend knows what it is. I don't want to appeal to the Chair for that ruling."

Hon. Manning Doherty, Progressive Leader, intervened at this point in the debate, and said that it was far from Mr. Raney's mind to take any line of conduct discourteous to the Speaker. Mr. Thompson again repeated his ruling and the reasons therefor, and put the question that the orders of the day be read. The motion was carried.

"I move the House now adjourn," said Mr. Raney.

Premier Ferguson arose and said: "Let me say this is the most outrageous proceeding I ever have witnessed."

"The orders of the day will now be proceeded with," said the Speaker.

#### Raney Returns to Attack.

The House then put a bill through second reading, and then Mr. Raney moved the adjournment of the House. He read a selection from the reported speech of Dr. Forbes Godfrey at Weston Wednesday night, in which Dr. Godfrey expressed himself respecting the possibility of a plebiscite on the Ontario Temperance Act. Mr. Raney asked the Premier if Dr. Godfrey was speaking as an individual or as a member of the Government; had the Premier now arrived at the point where he thought there was a sufficiently manifested desire for a change in the law to warrant the Government in submitting a plebiscite; and if the Government recognized the solidarity of Cabinet government.

"If my honorable friend will put his questions on the order paper in the usual way I will answer them," said the Premier.

## GIVES HYDRO RIGHT TO CONTROL DESIGN OF ELECTRIC WORKS

### Opposition Members Object to Bill Amending Power Commission Act.

Four bills sponsored by Sir Adam Beck were considered yesterday afternoon in the Legislature—two in committee and two in the second-reading stage. One measure, deal-

ing with franchises granted to street railways, the terms of which have been varied, will be amended to apply only to the City of London, Premier Ferguson said. The first bill, containing amendments to the Public Utilities Act, went through committee practically without discussion.

Considerable discussion took place over the various clauses of the bill to amend the Power Commission Act. Clause 11 of this amending act was objected to by Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell), who argued that it was conferring legislative power upon the Cabinet Council, and that such powers were undesirable, even if it were legal to grant them. Mr. Belanger's criticism had its effect on the Prime Minister, who asked that the clause stand over.

Another clause in the act gives the Hydro-Electric Power Commission the right to prescribe the design, construction, installation, protection, use, maintenance, repair, extension, alteration, connection and disconnection of all installations, plant and other works and matters used in the generation and distribution of electrical power in Ontario; prohibiting the use in Ontario of any such works or matters until the same shall have been inspected and approved, and prohibiting the advertising or display or offering for sale, or other disposal, until the same shall have been inspected and approved.

#### Lots of Inspectors.

Hon. Manning Doherty, Progressive Leader, thought this power was somewhat drastic. It would be better, he argued, to leave something to the discrimination of the individual purchaser. People were beginning to expect the Government and the Church to do everything for them. The bill was going too far.

Premier Ferguson said that already the principle of the act had been applied. The Government inspected meats and canning factories, and now it was only going to inspect electrical appliances to keep people's houses from being burned down and to keep people from being killed. Mr. Doherty said he was confident that the power would not be abused by Sir Adam Beck, but it was a tremendous danger for any man to have it in his power to say to electrical manufacturers: "You have offended me, and you can't make electrical equipment."

#### \$125 for \$10 Job.

Liberal Leader Sinclair wanted to know if the Government would do anything to check exorbitant prices which might follow from the creation of a virtual monopoly in the electrical manufacturing business. It seemed to him the bill was going a long way to place power in the hands of the Commission. Sir Adam explained that electrical equipment, even the simplest kind, was intricate and difficult to understand and intricate pieces of machinery to use.

Mr. Sinclair said that a year ago he had some alterations done in his home, and a \$10 job cost him \$125 before he was through. "I was charged \$125 for a \$10 job, and the country is full of it," he said. There was too much of that sort of regulation now, he argued.

There was some discussion also on the clauses giving the Commission the right to direct local commissions to collect arrears, and to discipline such local commissions which grant rates other than approved by the Commission by subjecting them to disqualification from office.

#### Must Stop Abuses of Office.

Sir Adam said there had been cases where friends and relatives of members of local commissions had their houses and factories wired without using the meter. These were serious matters, he said.

Mr. Sinclair and Harold Fisher (Liberal, West Ottawa) doubted if even the Hydro Commission should be given such wide powers, particularly the power of disqualification of local commissions.

Eventually the clauses carried. The bill to return the bonds deposited by the City of Hamilton with the Hydro was amended by including in it the provision to return the bonds to East Flamboro', North Grimsby and Barton. R. H. Kemp (Progressive, Lincoln) wanted all the other municipalities included,

and, after some discussion, the Premier intimated that some enabling power to permit the Government to deal with these other municipalities, if they applied for the return of the bonds, might be placed in the bill. The bill stands over in order to have amending clauses reprinted.

#### Will Apply Only to London.

When Sir Adam Beck moved second reading of his bill respecting street railway fares under certain acts, and explained that where an act of 1922 gave the railway right to charge fares higher than the city wished, these terms should not apply to an extension or a renewal of the agreement, Mr. Doherty asked him what city this applied to, Guelph or Windsor.

"London," said Sir Adam. The Premier explained that the bill would have to be amended so it would apply only to London.

Mr. Sinclair registered his protest against legislation of that kind being introduced for certain localities under the guise of a public act.

## INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY IN HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

### Premier Ferguson Tells Liberal Leader Sinclair That All Branches of Service Handling Funds Will Be Probed

In reply to a question by W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., Liberal Leader in the Legislature, Premier Ferguson yesterday confirmed a story in The Globe to the effect that an investigation and audit was being carried on into the Highways Department by Government officials. "All the branches of the service handling Provincial funds," he said to the Liberal Leader, "are being audited—every branch that has been handling Provincial funds is being audited; the Highways Branch, too." Mr. Sinclair—No special attention? Premier Ferguson—None whatever. They are all getting special attention.