

Wednesday, Feb. 17th

has not been brought into politics by the Liberal party. The Liberals regret that the Prime Minister has forced the question into politics."

No Time Like Present.

"Now is the time for the Prime Minister to tell the people of Ontario what he has in mind on the Ontario Temperance Act. The people are anxious to know. I challenge him here to tell the House. He may want time to think it over. But I challenge him to say in this debate what he intends to do in regard to the O.T.A. Surely this is no way to be mystifying the people, refusing to answer questions, in view of the fact that the members supporting the Prime Minister have made pronouncements on the issue."

Mr. Sinclair dealt with the liquor question as the concluding thought of his speech. He introduced the subject by saying that he would speak on a question which was "agitating the public mind." In October, 1924, he said, the unsuspecting public had thought that the O.T.A. was settled. Then he referred to statements by the Prime Minister to the public and to Rev. Dr. T. Albert Moore, and declarations by Attorney-General Nickle, to show the Government's stand at that time. It was made clear, he emphasized, that if the people voted for the continuance of the O.T.A. the Government would treat it as any other legislation and would see that it was strictly enforced.

Says Word Was Passed.

"But all the people did not know," said he, "that on the streets and the highways in June, 1923, word was passed around: 'Vote for Ferguson and get your liquor back.' Those who canvassed in that election did not use those words without some authority. Who authorized that as campaign talk? Did the vote of October, 1924, spoil the carrying out of that promise made before the election?"

Then he referred to statements made on several occasions by Toronto's "wet" members, J. A. McCausland and Colonel J. A. Currie. "Were those members," he asked, "speaking their own views or were they channels through which the Government was trying to create public opinion?"

Colonel Currie interrupted to declare: "I might say I was giving my own views."

"The people haven't yet forgotten the broken pledges of the Prime Minister regarding 4.4 beer," continued Mr. Sinclair, "and are fearful some other step will be taken. That is the reason I mention the subject in this debate. We have a Government that prides itself on constitutional matters. If the Government lives up to the promises made, the people will find that there will be no legislation regarding the O.T.A. this session. Surely the Government does not expect to go to the country on what it intends to do, as in 1925, and fool the people twice in the same way."

Currie Leaves House.

He further referred to statements, made by Mr. Nickle particularly: "The Government intends to maintain the principle of the O.T.A.," and the words of the Prime Minister, "The people by their vote have declared themselves for prohibition," and "The O.T.A. has done good in Ontario."

As Mr. Sinclair was in the midst of these references, Col. Currie left his seat and made his exit from the chamber. "I am sorry the honorable member can't stand listening to any more," remarked Mr. Sinclair, noting his departure.

He quoted again from statements by the Government heads to show that it was promised that 4.4 beer would be given three or four years' trial. "And yet," he went on, "there are members who say the Government will throw it out at the present session."

"We hope so," chimed in Mr. McCausland.

Criticizes Doherty.

At the outset of his speech Mr. Sinclair attacked the Government because it had not filled the seven empty seats in the House. The vacancies were created by the departure from the Legislature of Hon. Manning Doherty, Peter Heenan, M. Lang, Hon. D. Carmichael, G. D. Sewell, W. E. Rowe, and by the death of Sir Adam Beck. He made particular reference to Mr. Doherty's exit from the Provincial fold to join Federal ranks. Mr. Doherty, said he, was apparently counting on Conservative rule in the Dominion, but he had missed his guess. He thought that Mr. Doherty was not particularly enamored of Mr. Meighen's tariff talk and realized that the tariff issue was not the main one, "but was simply up to bunco the people."

Says Law Violated.

Again speaking of the seven vacancies, he quoted legal authorities to show that when a vacancy occurs a by-election must take place shortly afterward to fill the empty seat. "But," he said, "the Government is evidently above the law. There should have been seven by-elections before this. That there are no by-elections is a direct and flagrant violation of the law. A hundred and sixty-five thousand people in the Province have no representation. Is the Prime Minister above the law? I must say that it looks as if he is."

He continued to say that it was not the first time that Mr. Ferguson had disregarded laws. During the tinker probe, he said, the Prime Minister, then Minister of Lands and Forests, had stated he would not abide by regulations.

Other Instances.

"I think that members of this House can now see," he went on, "that the Prime Minister cannot answer questions. I almost hesitate to ask why the vacancies continue so long. But I submit that the people of the Province are asking why these seats are vacant. I am sure that when the opportunity comes to fill these seats they will not be filled with supporters of the Prime Minister. If one man can say to 165,000 people, 'You can have no part in the Government,' it is not in accordance with democratic principles. But we saw something of this nature a few months ago, when 24,000 people voted to maintain the O.T.A., and he, by one vote, said: 'I am going to vote against it!'"

Is Election Coming?

He thought that it might be stated that a reason for not filling the vacancies was that there was to be a general election. "If that was the reason, it was good and valid," he said. "But, if this is so, I feel the Prime Minister will be good enough to tell us, if that is what is in his mind."

Mr. Raney—How about the liquor policy that is to please everybody?

Mr. Sinclair—Some people say the wires got crossed—that it is a liquor policy to tease everybody.

Premier Ferguson—I understand my honorable friend is going to make his position clear on these matters.

Mr. Sinclair—Yes; and it will be a good deal clearer than yours.

Was Barred From House.

Mr. Sinclair then brought to the attention of the House that he had been barred from entrance to the Chamber on the opening day, and had not heard the Speech from the Throne read. He pictured what had taken place that day—how on trying to enter the Chamber from his office he had been stopped by a policeman; how later Government members had offered to escort him through the guards.

"My honorable friend," said Mr. Ferguson at this point, "should feel it a great honor that he is not known to the police."

Mr. Sinclair went on to deal with the Speech from the Throne. "I doubt," he said, "if there was ever